

Hafa Adai!

Face-to-face classes at NMC for the vaccinated. **PAGE 2**
DLNR: Bikes prohibited on Beach Road Pathway. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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DPL barred from reissuing RFP on Mariana Resort lot

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has issued an order prohibiting the Department of Public Lands from reissuing RFP20-RED004 while the lawsuit

filed by Mariana E-Land Corp., owner and operator of Kensington Hotel Saipan, Coral Ocean Point, and Pacific Islands Club, is pending.

Pursuant to an agreement between E-Land, DPL, and acting DPL secretary Sixto K. Igisomar, Superior Court

See DPL on Page 4

RESCUE OPERATION

A Boating Safety unit tows a vessel that had to be rescued yesterday after encountering rough seas off Saipan, which forced them to call 911. The 17-foot sailing vessel—a rental vessel—had just come from Managaha and was already within 500 feet of the shore near Micro Beach when things went bad. The wind came up and there was almost zero visibility. “We kept the boat upright just fine,” said photographer BJ Eddy, who was one of the passengers. “But when the visibility came back we were past the reef and some of the ships. [That’s when a] passenger on our boat called 911. We got through to the Boat Safety police, which did a great job in rescuing us. They put the two youths and their mothers on the boat and then pulled us in.”

BJ EDDY

Selling the CNMI as multi-island destination

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Selling the CNMI as a tourist destination should not just mean selling the islands as

separate destinations but as one, multi-island destination, where Saipan tourists can also go to Tinian or Rota on day trips, or go on an adventure. See SELLING on Page 4

CNMI closes in on 70%

» Herd immunity target: 80%

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

As of yesterday afternoon, the CNMI is just 275 individuals away from 70% of its eligible population being fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The next goal? 80%.

The Commonwealth Health- See CNMI on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, July 21, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **69.4%**

Days since last community transmission **120**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	26,822
Fully Vaccinated:	24,895
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,241
Fully Vaccinated:	3,988
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	514

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,486	0	8,486
Recovered	8,288	0	8,288
Active	55	0	55
Deaths	143	0	143

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	188	0	188
Traced via Travel Screening	152	0	152
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

29,397 Fully vaccinated



INSIDE



BUSINESS

Bali Fashion on Middle Road in Gualo Rai will soon be having a back-to-school promo.

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NATION

Jeff Bezos blasted into space on his rocket company's first flight with people on board.

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ASIA

At least 12 people died in severe flooding in the drowned city of Zhengzhou in Henan.

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Local

Face-to-face classes at NMC for the vaccinated—Deleon Guerrero

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

From eulogizing former

NMC employee Hedwig Hofschneider, who recently passed away, to future plans for the college's facilities on

Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero touched on several

subjects during a guest interview on KKMP radio yesterday morning.

In particular, Deleon Guerrero said that students who want to attend face-to-face classes this upcoming fall 2021 semester have to be vaccinated against COVID-19. He said the college's priority going into the semester is to keep its student body and the CNMI as a whole safe in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. In line with that priority, NMC's Board of Regents has approved a proposal to require all students in face-to-face classes to be vaccinated, Deleon Guerrero said.

For students who prefer to not attend face-to-face classes or for those who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine, NMC will maintain its online academic and extra-curricular offerings.

Deleon Guerrero clarified later during the radio interview that students and faculty will not be allowed to ask each other if they are vaccinated or to show proof in classrooms, but said that NMC will acquire proof of vaccination during the registration process. Currently, there are three ways to show proof of vaccination to NMC: the COVID-19 vaccination card provided by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the immunization summary also provided by CHCC, or the college's Health Clearance Certificate that a student's healthcare provider can fill out.

Deleon Guerrero also said those who have only received their first doses of a COVID-19 vaccine will be allowed to attend face-to-face classes. "The idea is we want to make



Deleon Guerrero

sure everyone is safe, [and] we also want to make the process as flexible as possible," he said.

Registration is ongoing for the fall semester that starts in August.

Also present at KKMP yesterday was Associated Students of NMC president Maia Pangelinan, who said that NMC's As Terlaje campus will serve as a vaccination outreach site to further promote vaccination among NMC students. Vaccines will be administered at the campus from July 22 to 24 from 9am to 3pm on all days.

On the topic of future plans for NMC's facilities, Deleon Guerrero said that NMC vice president Frankie Eliptico and Rachel Ann Fusco—who leads the college's Capital Improvement Project team and facilities team—have been working on a facilities master plan for future construction projects at the college.

Deleon Guerrero said the long-term goal is to "build a college town" and "to make NMC a place where students can spend their whole day." Part of these plans will be to revitalize NMC's instructional sites on Tinian and Rota. Deleon Guerrero said he "didn't want to reveal too much" as the college hopes to have a big reveal with the formal endorsement and approval of the plans by the Board of Regents sometime later.

Deleon Guerrero also remembered Hofschneider as a "kind, humble, hard-working person" who had been with NMC for quite some time. He cited several grants that Hofschneider was able to secure for the college, with one being a highly-competitive grant that the college would not have secured if not for Hofschneider's "tenacity and hard work." For himself and the rest of NMC, Deleon Guerrero said the best way to honor Hofschneider's legacy is to "continue fighting the good fight that he dedicated his life to."

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DLNR: Bikes prohibited on Beach Road Pathway

» **DLNR to install warning signs along pathway**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Department of Land and Natural Resources will soon be cracking down on people who ride bicycles on the Beach Road Pathway.

DLNR reminded the public and bicycle enthusiasts yesterday that riding bicycles on the Pathway is prohibited. Augustine "Gus" M. Kaipat, special assistant to the DLNR Secretary, said they are hoping to

WARNING!



NO BIKE(S)
ON PATHWAY

install warning signs by next week "just to inform everyone that it's not allowed."

Kaipat said their job is to maintain and clean the pathway and that police officers are in charge of enforcing the law.

To increase safety for pedestrians in the area, DLNR is tasked with discouraging bicycle riding on the pathway, which has prompted complaints from those who walk or jog on the Pathway.

In its public notice, DLNR cites Title 9 of the Commonwealth Code Division 5, Article 2, Section 5755(b) that states "A person may not ride a bicycle upon and along a sidewalk, pathway, or across a highway upon and along a crosswalk, where the use of bicycles is prohibited by official traffic signs."

DLNR did not indicate what's the penalty for violating this law.

On June 14, 2002, then-governor Juan N. Babauta signed House Bill 14-153 into Public Law 14-13, which amends Title 9, Division 5, Article 2, Section 5755(b) to include the

word "Pathway."

The 14th Legislature found that several accidents have occurred along the Beach Road

Pathway due to bicycling.

On Nov. 11, 2003, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. issued a notice of

advisory, advising the public that bicycling on the Beach Road Pathway is prohibited and poses a threat to children

and adults who are jogging or walking.

Kaipat said he does not know whether the previous

signs were destroyed as there were two super typhoons that has struck Saipan in the last few years.

2017 HYUNDAI VELOSTER LX SALE PRICE: \$18,995 STK: 17P326 15,095 MILES KBB: \$18,785	2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT SALE PRICE: \$16,995 STK: 8HS879 10,120 MILES KBB: \$19,402	2019 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL SALE PRICE: \$19,995 STK: 9H040D 20,026 MILES KBB: \$21,411
2016 KIA RIO LX • 67,685 MILES • STK: 16P330 • KBB: \$12,965 SALE PRICE \$9,995	2018 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE • 27,002 MILES • STK: 18P323 • KBB: \$16,477 SALE PRICE \$14,995	2015 TOYOTA CAMRY LE • 44,202 MILES • STK: 15P325 • KBB: \$20,295 SALE PRICE \$18,995
2014 MAZDA MAZDA6 SPORT • 44,202 MILES • STK: 19HS901B • KBB: \$14,024 SALE PRICE \$12,995	2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT • 10,153 MILES • STK: 18HS905 • KBB: \$19,496 SALE PRICE \$16,995	2018 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER SPORT • 12,549 MILES • STK: 8M029D • KBB: \$19,751 SALE PRICE \$19,995
2016 TOYOTA PRIUS C • 48,814 MILES • STK: 20D134A • KBB: \$16,585 SALE PRICE \$13,995	2017 HONDA HDV LX • 39,686 MILES • STK: 18P317A • KBB: \$17,453 SALE PRICE \$16,995	2011 TOYOTA 4RUNNER • 77,762 MILES • STK: 11P314 • KBB: \$21,336 SALE PRICE \$19,995
2017 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT • 34,648 MILES • STK: 20M094A • KBB: \$14,967 SALE PRICE \$13,995	2018 KIA OPTIMA LX • 10,367 MILES • STK: 18HS925C • KBB: \$19,930 SALE PRICE \$17,995	2019 MAZDA CX-5 GT AWD • 8,214 MILES • STK: 19P299 • KBB: \$28,460 SALE PRICE \$26,995
2018 KIA FORTE HATCHBACK • 10,564 MILES • STK: 18HS916 • KBB: \$15,477 SALE PRICE \$14,995	2017 MAZDA MAZDA3 TOURING H/B • 21,120 MILES • STK: 20D013A • KBB: \$17,801 SALE PRICE \$17,995	2015 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 4WD • 60,757 MILES • STK: 15P327 • KBB: \$32,187 SALE PRICE \$30,995
2016 MAZDA MAZDA6 SPORT • 55,153 MILES • STK: 16R269 • KBB: \$14,450 SALE PRICE \$14,995	2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT • 4,180 MILES • STK: 20P307 • KBB: \$21,326 SALE PRICE \$18,995	2019 NISSAN FRONTIER 4WD • 37,272 MILES • STK: 19P326 • KBB: \$33,250 SALE PRICE \$32,995

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Palacios mum whether he will run for governor

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Saying it's too early to tell, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios is still mum whether he is running or not for the November 2022 gubernatorial election.

"I can't tell you right now. Nothing is really firm yet. I'm just taking a look at things," said Palacios in an interview at his office yesterday.

The lieutenant governor also declined to comment on speculations in social media that he will run for governor and that his running mate is Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang.

A picture of a banner that says "Proven Action for 22" started circulating in social media yesterday, with the letters "P" and "A" highlighted in the banner.

Palacios did confirm that he will not be Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' running mate in next year's election but he did not elaborate.

Torres has yet to announce his running mate.

Multiple sources disclosed that



File photo shows Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Saipan Mayor David Apatang walking to the Torres-Palacios administration's presentation on how the CNMI government plans to spend over \$512 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding at the Hibiscus Hall of the Crowne Plaza (the former Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan) last June 4.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Sen. Vinzon Sablan (Ind-Saipan) may likely be Torres' running mate. Both Sablan and Torres have yet to comment on this.

Palacios said right now he has not committed to anything. "It's a bit too early. We're still in pandemic mode. We still have a lot of work to do. There's a lot of things that still needs to get done," Palacios said, adding

that there are still people that are without jobs.

When asked about Torres' recent announcement that he will seek reelection, Palacios said it's a very bold move on Torres' part because declaring one's candidacy for governor is usually done in the latter part of the year and that Torres appears to have decided early.

SELLING

From Page 1

ture trek in the Northern Islands—all while preserving the islands' natural beauty and marketing the islands' pristine state.

This, in brief, was the focus of a presentation yesterday during the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors general membership meeting at the Kensington Hotel Saipan in San Roque, with Darlene Zhai who joined online, as guest speaker.

Zhai, who is the author of the Sustainable Tourism Development Study prepared for the Marianas Visitors Authority in 2017, said the Marianas has the natural beauty that is competitive with other top-tier destinations like Fiji, Maldives, and French Polynesia. "To move toward that direction, we have to work on destination improvement efforts...and it is about making the best use of what the Marianas has to offer to turn it into a world-class destination," she said.

Zhai, an expert on destination tourism planning and sustainable development, is no stranger to the CNMI as she has traveled around the islands several times and the experience has helped her come up with a plan on how to repackage CNMI into a multi-

island destination.

"All the islands in the CNMI have pristine environment and untouched beauty that caters to a larger, unique and upworthy experiences that could elevate its position as a multi-island destination," she said.

According to her, it is important to recognize that Saipan is the hub of the Marianas as it has the largest tourism activities and attractions. "In order for the Marianas to succeed as a multi-island destination, it is imperative that Saipan's existing facilities undergo extensive revitalization. ... Two hindering factors are the accommodation imagery (old facilities and hotels) and limited global brand representation," Zhai said.

"Competing destinations like Guam and Hawaii also have hotels, many of them international brands. They were developed in the '70s and '80s but they have undergone numerous rounds of renovations throughout the years to remain competitive and to make sure that their revenue generating capabilities are maximized. Although facilities are old on Saipan, they are located in a great shoreline size, which helps to get good reviews online," Zhai said.

She noted that Saipan is also home to numerous tourist attractions and activities. "This includes Managaha

tours for snorkeling and diving opportunities and Garapan for the shops and restaurants. ...If you look at online reviews, the natural beauty of the islands are always highlighted and this shows that there is room for improving the destination, better management of these areas to take it to the next level," she said.

According to Zhai, Saipan has the potential to attract what's called in the business as "free independent travelers" and it can open opportunities for international hotel brands to come in by giving them attractive lease agreements, thereby new job opportunities that will make it harder for the younger generation to leave.

To attract tourists who are already on Saipan to explore other islands, access to these islands is critical. "Tinian is a great attraction as an ideal day-trip or get-away destination, provided accessibility from Saipan to Tinian is available. ...Scheduled ferry service and flights from Saipan are important to facilitate day trips. ...Additional creative access options can include helicopter and seasonal fishing excursion from Saipan to Tinian," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CNMI

From Page 1

care Corp. has set that 80% target so that the CNMI can claim herd immunity and begin to loosen COVID-19 safety restrictions. After reaching that goal, it is projected that this will allow those in the CNMI who are unable to receive their vaccines—such as infants and those with compromised immune systems—to remain safe from the virus.

Herd immunity is a type of protection against an infection/disease that is achieved when a large portion of a population has built an immunity to an infection/disease through past exposure or vaccination.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said Tuesday that it is a community effort to reach 70%, and she is hopeful that the CNMI will reach the 80% target soon. That means 4,513 more people will need to be inoculated against the COVID-19 virus.

"Reaching 70% represents the cooperation of our community in combating this virus. We are closer to our goal, and more work needs to be done, but the CNMI can do this," said Muña.

Currently, the COVID-19 vaccination campaign Road to 80—which will run from July 12 to Aug. 28—has already begun awarding thousands of dollars to lucky raffle winners weekly. The campaign is made possible through a collective effort among CHCC, the Office of the Gov-

ernor, the Marianas Visitors Authority, Joeten Enterprises, Inc., Bridge Capital, LLC, and TanHoldings.

When asked if Road to 80's conclusion on Aug. 28 is CHCC's target date to achieve herd immunity, Muña said the sooner the CNMI achieves herd immunity, the better.

"We would love to reach that goal sooner. The sooner we fully vaccinate 80% of the eligible population, the sooner most restrictions are removed. The more individuals we have vaccinated, the more protection we provide to our loved ones, our friends, and the whole community," said Muña.

Those wishing to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations can schedule an appointment online at vaccinatecnmi.com or over the phone at 682-SHOT (7468).

Palacios and Torres are both from the Republican Party.

Palacios acknowledged that Torres has done very well in terms of addressing the immediate needs after disasters and even in this COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, he said, the mayors have done pretty well and that Apatang has done exceptionally well. Palacios said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan

(Ind-MP) has also done exceptionally well for the Commonwealth.

"At the end of the day, we get to make sure that we take care of things even if we don't agree on everything. There are certain things that we have to agree on for the benefit of our community," he said.

Many people are pushing Sablan to challenge Torres next year.

Coldwell Energy to bring first electric cars to Saipan

A company is planning to bring electric cars on Saipan this August 2021.

Coldwell Energy chief executive officer David Hood said yesterday they plan to bring in a 2021 all electric Nissan Leaf and a Tesla for testing here on the island.

"We plan to test the cars in our unique...environment for dependability, mileage per charge, charging combined with solar and different levels of charge stations ranging from trickle charge to extreme fast charging," said Hood in a press statement.

The CEO said their goal is to open the CNMI's doors to electric vehicles, removing the mystery and help others take advantage of today's new technologies here in the CNMI.

"It's time to be proactive with sustainable practices and these technologies will soon be affordable and available for everyone in the CNMI," Hood said.

For further information Coldwell Energy can be contacted at (670) 285-2652, MH1 Building. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

DPL

From Page 1

Associate Judge Joseph Camacho granted yesterday the preliminary injunction filed by E-Land that prevents DPL from re-issuing RFP20-RED004 while its complaint regarding the cancelation of the Mariana Resort & Spa property lease agreement is pending.

RFP20-RED004 was issued back in February 2020 to solicit proposals for the purpose of leasing and commercial development of the former Mariana Resort property in Marpi.

According to E-Land lawyer Charity Hodson, E-Land filed the complaint last week seeking a court judgment that would declare DPL's decision to rescind the notice awarding E-Land the lease agreement as improper. In addition, Hodson said E-Land wants the court to issue a judgment against Igisomar for breach of his fiduciary duty.

Back on Feb. 20, 2020, DPL solicited proposals for the purpose of leasing and commercial development of the former Mariana Resort property in Marpi through RFP20-RED004.

On Oct. 12, 2020, E-Land submitted a proposal.

On Feb. 17, 2021, the DPL secretary at that time and the DPL legal counsel met with E-Land to discuss the amount of the total investment in E-Land's proposal.

E-Land said it gave a presentation and showed DPL that although the initial rent fee proposed in E-Land's proposal was 1% of the fair market value plus 2% of operating revenue, the rent proposed was actually greater than the rate of 5% fair market value and 1% of gross revenue.

DPL then requested E-Land to present a best and final offer. On Feb. 19, 2021, E-Land submitted its best and final offer to DPL.

E-Land said its proposed total investment was \$220 million, of which \$213.2 million would be directly related to development investment.

E-Land said it also offered a total of \$6.8 million in public benefits including: \$2.5 million toward the infrastructure development of the DPL Homestead Program; \$1.05

million for the repair and upgrade of the existing Marpi swimming pool; \$400,000 to develop a baseball field in Tanapag; and \$2.85 million for a lifelong education center to facilitate learning about Micronesian traditions and culture.

On March 22, 2021, DPL issued a notice of award to E-Land.

On April 29, 2021, DPL issued a letter to E-Land with a draft lease attached. The draft lease included the rent terms in E-Land's proposal which was based on 1% of the appraisal value.

Then, on June 18, 2021, E-Land said that Igisomar issued another letter to E-Land, advising that he was rescinding the award and canceling the RFP, which would be reissued.

According to the suit, Igisomar stated that the reason for the rescission and cancelation was because after DPL submitted the draft lease to the Office of the Attorney General for review for legal sufficiency, the Office of the Attorney General rejected it, stating that E-Land's proposal should not have been considered because it was allegedly not compliant with the minimum rental rates set by regulation.

On June 28, 2021, E-Land met with the Igisomar and the DPL legal counsel where DPL reasserted its same position stated in the June 18, 2021 letter. In that same meeting, E-Land asked for time to assess its options.

According to the lawsuit, DPL agreed that it would give E-Land 30 days, ending July 19, 2021, to review the situation before DPL reissues the RFP.

On July 8, 2021, E-Land said it requested DPL to reconsider its decision to rescind the award based on the DPL's secretary discretion to exercise his fiduciary duty in negotiating basic rent under the DPL Temporary Occupancy Rules and Regulations.

"[The] DPL secretary breached his fiduciary duty in rejecting a proposal that was in the best interest of the Commonwealth by failing to stand by the original, correct, assessment that E-Land's rent fee was actually greater than the rate of 5% fair market value and 1% of revenue," the lawsuit stated.



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PUA claimants to be required to show proof of work searches

In accordance with federal regulations from the U.S. Department of Labor, the CNMI Department of Labor will begin requiring all Pandemic Unemployment Assistance claimants to conduct three work searches and maintain a log of all work search contacts consistent with Hawaii law starting Aug. 1, 2021, through the end of the program on Sept. 4, 2021.

On June 30, 2021, CNMI DOL received guidance from the USDOL Employment & Training Administration regarding Hawaii's reinstatement of the Pandemic Unem-

ployment Assistance program's work search requirement.

According to federal regulations, Hawaii law extends to the U.S. Pacific Territories, making the work search requirement applicable to the CNMI PUA program.

Hawaii Administrative Rule 12-5-35—"Availability" states that "[a]n individual may be considered available for work for any week in which the individual has met the work search requirements of this section: (1) The individual shall make a minimum of

three [3] work search contacts each week, unless otherwise provided in this subsection [and] (2) the individual shall maintain a record of all work search contacts and may be required to submit such record upon request by the department."

Based on further review of Hawaii employment statutes, only full-time employees who have been deemed "partially unemployed" as a result of a reduction in work hours due to the pandemic are exempted from the work search requirement. All other PUA

recipients are required to satisfy the work search requirement. Failure to do so will be cause for a denial of continued benefits.

Pertinent information regarding the new requirement will be promulgated using several mediums such as but not limited to, press releases, the CNMI DOL website, radio, or the hiremarianas.com internal messaging system to notify applicable PUA recipients.

Work search requirement resources

The CNMI DOL has pre-

pared a frequently asked questions listing and a work search log template that are available for download at www.marianaslabor.net under "Forms & Publications." Contact the PUA program online at info@puamarianas.com or by phone at (670) 322-8870/71/72/73/74 for further information on the work search

requirement.

Individuals who opt to use CNMI DOL's services to satisfy the work search requirements (i.e., registering for work on www.marianaslabor.net) are encouraged to do so.

Contact the Division of Employment Services at (670) 664-3190 for further information. (PR)

Rosario completes testimony, JGO has yet to schedule next hearing

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Special assistant for administration Mathilda A. Rosario completed her testimony Tuesday night before the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, but the JGO has yet to schedule its next hearing.

Rosario was done with her testimony at 6:30pm. It was her third day of testifying before the JGO that is investigating Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' travels and expenses.

JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said they have not scheduled the next hearing as their next witness, Juana Leon Guerrero, who is director of the Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicles, could not make it.

Babauta said Leon Guerrero wrote to the committee that she had been subpoenaed by the U.S. District Court for the NMI. "So we have to reschedule her," Babauta said.

Leon Guerrero was among seven DPS officials/police officers that the JGO earlier announced will be subpoenaed to appear and testify.

The six others are police officer Adrian Mendiola of the Boating Safety Unit, and police officers Simon Manacop, Jose Saures, Daniel Joab, Alex Sakisat, and Joey Cruz. Cruz is the personal driver/security detail of Torres.

The JGO also summoned to testify three others—Erin Camacho of the Women, Infants, and Children Program; former Finance secretary Larrisa Larson, and Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig.

MCS reinstates Scheduling Fair for juniors and seniors

Mount Carmel School will reinstate its annual Scheduling Fair for juniors and seniors on July 28, 2021, at the MCS Maturana Building.

On the day of the event, rising seniors will meet with MCS staff from 9am to 10am and juniors will meet from 2pm to 3pm. Students who will be off-island during the Scheduling Fair are expected to contact the school to select their classes for the new school year.

Mount Carmel School prides itself as a college-preparatory school and aims to provide students with the opportunity to sign up for classes as they would at any postsecondary institution. The school has made course descriptions available on the MCS website for students to review and consider before the upcoming event.


The courses available for selection to MCS juniors and seniors include advanced Japanese, algebra 2, AP calculus, AP computer science A, AP computer science principles, AP English, AP U.S. history, senior seminar, civics, creative writing, financial literacy, introduction to media and communications, precalculus, and U.S. History. These courses are separate from the regular required classes for juniors and seniors.

Acting MCS president Frances Taimanao said the Scheduling Fair is the first of many programs the school aims to bring back this upcoming school year. The event is also meant to "set the tone" for more student activities as many MCS students are choosing to receive their COVID-19 vaccine.

"We are working hard with the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and [Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.] to determine what programs and events can be reinstated for this upcoming school year," said Taimanao. "Since the CNMI advanced to Level Green and updated safety recommendations from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] were published, we are determined to bring back traditions and activities while enforcing approved safety measures."

Mount Carmel School shared school events, activities, and programs that will be reinstated includes, but are not limited to, outdoor physical education for all grade-levels, weekly mass celebrations, student spiritual retreat, Monday flag raising, Tuesday calisthenics, and all student clubs.

For more information about the Mount Carmel School Scheduling Fair, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

AMENDMENT #01 PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairperson of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting is scheduled on July 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance. In compliance with the CNMI COVID-19 guidelines, Face-masks must be worn, social distancing will be enforced, and not more than ten (10) people will be allowed in the conference room during the course of the meeting.

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes (April 29, 2021, May 07, 2021 and May 24, 2021)
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
 - a. Financials
- IV. OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. CDBG-DR Updates
 - b. Public Notice Certification and Adoption for Workforce Development and Rental Housing
- V. NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Personnel Matters – Selection of CFO
 - b. Loan Review Approval/Denial Authority of the Corporate Director
 - c. Amend Action Plan to Reprogram Turnkey Home Development Program
- VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT**
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VIII. OTHER MATTERS**
- IX. ADJOURNMENT**

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

Saipan Cares for Animals, Rescue & Outreach Center

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Cares for Animals, Rescue & Outreach Center is proposing to construct a newly built structure measuring **56' (L) x 38'.4" (W) x 10'.3" (H)** for its Office Use and Veterinary Clinic or Hospital Use and will also be constructing **twenty-nine (29)** outdoor Dog Kennels. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use and the site is located on Lot No. E.A 753-2 in the village of As Lito. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: August 4, 2021
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Queens Club, Kensington Hotel

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, August 3rd, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

Saipan Horse Course, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Horse Course, LLC is proposing to occupy a Lot for its Amusement Outdoor, Intensive Use for a Horse Back Riding Trail. The trail will start from the proposed lot, leading to Marine Beach and back. The applicant will be occupying a lot with existing structures that includes a Horse Barn Stall measuring **76' (L) x 39' (W) x 16' (H)**, a Horse Training Ground and a Reception and Living Quarter Building. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use and the site is located on Lot No. 113 E 03 in the village of Kagman. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: August 4, 2021
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Queens Club, Kensington Hotel

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, August 3rd, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

Tian Chi Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Tian Chi Corp. is proposing to renovate and occupy an existing 1-storey structure measuring **50' (L) x 40' (W) x 9'.5" (H)** for its Gas Station, Light Repair "Carwash" Use. The applicant will also construct an overhead structure measuring **50' (L) x 40' (W) x 9'.5" (H)** for its Bay Service Area. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use and the site is located on Lot No. 006 H 45 in the village of Chalan Kanoa. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: August 4, 2021
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Queens Club, Kensington Hotel

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, August 3rd, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

'We still have to take necessary precautions'

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the low number of COVID-19 infections in the CNMI and the increasing number of people being vaccinated, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said the CNMI needs to maintain its current COVID-19 safety protocols and urges everyone to take the necessary precautions even if the CNMI is now at Level Green, which is the safest level in the community vulnerability rating scale.

Palacios said in an earlier interview that the CNMI being on Level Green "does not mean that everything is fine," and spoke of the im-

Salvation Army temporarily suspends meal distributions

Until further notice, the CNMI Salvation Army will be suspending its meal distribution service and returning to bulk food distributions (small bags of canned foods, etc.)

In a Facebook post on its page yesterday, the CNMI Salvation Army said it will continue to provide food assistance to the families most in need. "We will be contacting those who message us to register with the date/time and location of distribution. Please be patient, as we have a list of many families registered and it will take some time to move through them

portance of travelers being fully vaccinated.

"[Moving from Level Blue to Green] doesn't mean that everything is fine. We still have to take certain necessary precautions like masking and social distancing and [limiting] unnecessary exposures. ... Vaccination is very critical, not just in the CNMI but even folks that are coming into the Commonwealth, and even folks that are leaving the Commonwealth, let's say for Korea," said Palacios.

Right now, in addition to the CNMI being placed on Level Green, the CNMI has already inked a Travel Bubble agreement with South Korea that creates a dedicated travel

all," the post stated.

The Salvation Army emphasized that this assistance is only for those who do not receive food stamps.

If you would like to register:

1. Send the CNMI Salvation Army a message on Facebook with your real name (which may be different from your Facebook name).

2. Tell us whether or not you or your family receive food stamps.

3. Provide your telephone number.

4. Tell us the number of people in your family (who

corridor between Saipan and South Korea for tourists, a group of media, travel agents, and social media influencers from South Korea have arrived to promote the Travel Bubble, has welcomed many Guam fishermen for the 37th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament a week ago, and , as of July 21, has fully vaccinated 69.3% of the eligible population, and has not seen a case of community spread in almost four months.

The CNMI-Republic of Korea Travel Bubble arrangement took effect on July 1 Palacios said the CNMI will only accept tourists from South Korea who are fully vaccinated with proof.

are living with you).

"Please do not come unless we have contacted and scheduled you. This is very important! Please park and walk up. Please maintain proper distancing. Please check this page regularly for updates," the Facebook post stated.

In particular, the CNMI Salvation Army urged readers not to comment on any of its distribution-related posts on Facebook page asking to be registered as doing so exposes their personal information to the public. "We will delete them and will not contact you." (*Saipan Tribune*)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-REP-21-016

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF A 1.5 MW TRAILER MOUNTED DIESEL GENERATING SET WITH ENCLOSURE FOR THE CUC POWER PLANT NO. 3, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-21-016, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than July 30, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A Proposal Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposal. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Offerors are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 14, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC's Water Utility Coordinator, Yvonne C. Ogomoro via email address yvonne.ogomoro@cucgov.org, CUC's Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC's Senior Purchasing Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Wednesday August 4, 2021 | 5:00 PM
Queens Club, Kensington Hotel
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnmizoning.com



AGENDA

- A. Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of 07/28/2021 Zoning Board Meeting minutes.
 5. Public Comments (*not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings*)
- B. Public Hearings:**
 1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-8035** - Tian Chi Corp. is proposing to renovate and occupy an existing 1-storey structure measuring 50' (L) x 40' (W) x 9'.5" (H) for its Gas Station, Light Repair "Carwash" Use. The applicant will also construct an overhead structure measuring 50' (L) x 40' (W) x 9'.5" (H) for its Bay Service Area. This use is classified as "Gas Station, Light Repair" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 006 H 45 in the village of Chalan Kanoa. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
 2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-7873** - Saipan Horse Course, LLC is proposing to occupy a portion of a undivided parcel for its "Amusement Outdoor, Intensive" Use for a Horse Back Riding Trail that will start from the proposed lot leading to Marine Beach and back. The applicant will be occupying a lot with existing structures that includes a Horse Barn Stall measuring 76' (L) x 39' (W) x 16' (H), a Horse Training Ground and a Reception and Living Quarter Building. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use and the site is located on Lot No. 113 E 03 in the village of Kagman. This area is zoned as Rural.
 3. **Conditional Use Application #2020-8063** - Saipan Cares for Animals, Rescue and Outreach Center is proposing to construct a building measuring 56' (L) x 38'.4" (W) x 10'.3" (H) for its Office Use and Veterinary Clinic or Hospital Use and will also be constructing twenty-nine (29) outdoor Dog Kennels. This use is classified as "Veterinary Clinic or Hospital" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. E.A. 753-2 in the village of As Lito. This area is zoned as Rural.
- C. Old Business**
 1. Zoning Office Building Renovations
 2. Garapan Revitalization Project
 3. Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Properties Act
 - i. Regulations
 4. Administrator's Contract Renewal
 5. Board Compensation
- D. Executive Session**
- E. Miscellaneous**
 1. Administrator's Updates
 2. Permit & Enforcement Report
- F. Adjournment**

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications
Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492>
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492



UNITED STATES Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 3rd Quarter General Membership Meeting on July 23, 2021 from 10:30am to 1:30pm at Aqua Resort, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of July 23, 2021**
- IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of June 08, 2021**
- V. Action Items**
 - a. Ratify the Approval of the Proposed COVID Budget from ACL titled Expanding Disabilities Network's (DD Councils) Access to COVID 19 Vaccines
- VI. Reports**
 - a. Chairperson
 - b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
 - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
 - d. Executive Director
- VII. Old Business**
 - a. CIRCLES Video Production Update
 - b. Saipan First Responder Training Update
 - c. CDD's Five State Plan 2022-2026 Public Hearing Update
- VIII. New Business**
 - a. New Membership Orientation
 - b. Meet Your Policy Maker
 - c. COVID Vaccine Public Awareness Campaign
- IX. Miscellaneous**
- X. Next Meeting**
- XI. Adjournment**

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Robert Mendiola
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

Opinion

Hafa Adair Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

It's time to get tough on COVID vaccine evaders

Last summer, when a new, deadly wave of COVID-19 infections gripped the nation, the only solace during that dark time was that a vaccine seemed possible, if not probable, within the year. It was the light in the proverbial tunnel, as distant and weak as it may have appeared at the moment.

We should have reached the end of the tunnel by now, thanks to amazing feats of science and government that developed and mass produced several COVID-19 vaccines in record time. Yet it's still agonizingly far away because of falling demand for the abundant and free shots, despite pleas and cash giveaways to nudge vaccine holdouts. Efforts to educate skeptics about the undeniable benefits of the vaccines must continue, and the social media platforms need to do a better job at cracking down on deliberate misinformation that serves solely to stir up confusion and doubt about the vaccines—or worse.

Meanwhile, the highly contagious Delta variant is driving a scary resurgence of COVID-19 infections across the nation.

At this point, it's clear that carrots aren't enough to compel the 41% of Americans who have yet to get a single shot. It's time to break out the sticks.

Metaphorically speaking, of course. We don't support corporal punishment, even for those who foolishly put the lives of others at risk by going maskless and unvaccinated into public places. Nor are universal government vaccine mandates the way to go. People should have a right to decide what goes into their bodies, including lifesaving medication and vaccines.

But what people should not have the right to do is endanger the health of other people as they exercise their personal freedom. And that's the line that should guide government officials and private employers to seek tougher restrictions on vaccine foot-draggers. If someone rejects inoculation for reasons other than medical, they should not be allowed to fully participate in society until this current public emergency is over.

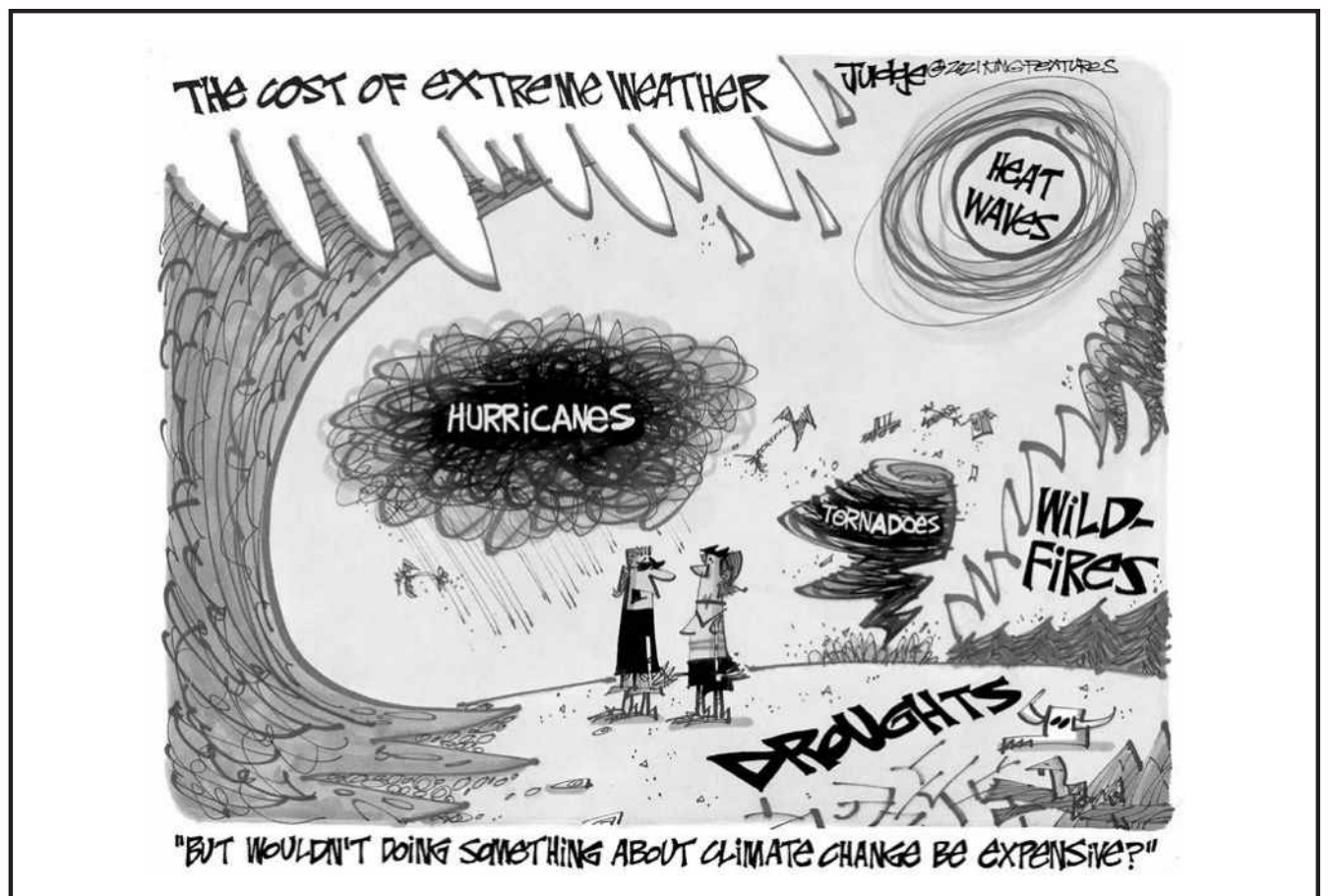
If that sounds harsh, consider the stakes. More than 600,000 Americans have already died of COVID-19, and the latest variant is so contagious that it can be transmitted in outdoor settings and is even sickening vaccinated people (though most of them not seriously).

Happily, momentum toward a crackdown has been growing.

Restrictions will inevitably lead to cries that constitutionally guaranteed rights are being violated, but the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission says that private businesses and employers are within their rights to mandate vaccines. And there is also solid legal precedent for sweeping government vaccine mandates. In 1905, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that smallpox mandates issued by Boston and Cambridge during a 1901 outbreak were a reasonable infringement on personal freedom.

But if prudent action is taken now, then there would be no need to even contemplate such draconian action. It's time to get tough on COVID-19 vaccine evaders.

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Afghan women and girls at risk as US forces draw down

As U.S. and coalition forces withdraw from Afghanistan and the Taliban militia gains more territory, women and girls who resisted gender-based violence and fled to protective shelters, or even jails, risk being sent back to their families where they face further abuse including death.

According to the U.S. State Department's 2020 Human Rights Report, there were 28 shelters in Afghanistan to protect women and girls at risk of severe forms of gender-based violence. On average, these shelters assisted as many as 2,000 women and girls annually. The U.S. and other international donors working through local organizations established and funded these shelters, yet those that fall under Taliban control will most certainly be closed.

For an Afghan girl or woman, going into a shelter exposes her to stigmatization and increased risk of violence if she returns home. The fact that the shelters were opened and funded by Western donors provides a pretext to accuse victims seeking protection of being Westernized and immoral. Those who fled from home have escaped extreme brutality, including child marriage and rape; domestic violence; a practice known as baad, in which girls are given to families to settle disputes; and threats of so-called honor killings.

Nongovernmental organizations sometimes reconcile residents with their families through legal mechanisms or more likely by negotiating settlements. For difficult cases that cannot be solved, victims remain trapped in shelters and jails indefinitely, potentially for the rest of their lives. Their options inside Afghanistan are increasingly abysmal. If not returned home to their perpetrators, they may end up on the streets where they will face abuse and exploitation and likely will be trafficked.

A "refugee" under the 1951 Refugee Convention, codified in U.S. law, is a person who, "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or ... unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country." Though "gender" was not included as a protected ground, today the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (recognizes gender-based persecution claims as legally qualifying for refugee or asylum protection.

Yet for Afghan women and girls in shelters and jails, they cannot travel across an international border because they lack proper documentation, and it is too risky. Afghan laws and customs afford male relatives the right to significant control over access to civil documentation and mobility. Even with a passport, traveling through checkpoints for a woman or girl is fraught with risk, as officers might return her to her family. Recently, the special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction recommended in

By **SHERIZAAN MINWALLA**

Chicago Tribune

Sherizaan Minwalla is a lawyer and researcher who attended law school at the Chicago-Kent College of Law and represented immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault at the National Immigrant Justice Center in Chicago.



his report that these shelters continue to be funded and secured.

Yet if they cannot be maintained, something else must be done to ensure these individuals are safe.

Clearly there are complex issues involved in promoting women's rights in the context of a war that itself leads to increased violence against women and girls. While this debate is beyond the scope of this op-ed, it is worth pointing out that the George W. Bush administration argued that advancing women's equality was a justification for the war in Afghanistan. U.S. taxpayers have spent billions on programs aimed at achieving gender equity by advancing rights in education, livelihoods and political participation and responding to gender-based violence.

President Joe Biden's administration plans to evacuate thousands of Afghans who supported the U.S. mission as translators or in other roles and face the very real threat of being killed by the Taliban due to their U.S. affiliation through the Special Immigrant Visa program. The U.S. affiliation is also a factor that puts women and girls in shelters at risk of retaliation.

Ensuring the continued safety of at-risk women and girls is in line with U.S. humanitarian goals, our commitment to human rights and our foreign policy interests. Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, the president may determine that group designation under Priority 2 is warranted in the case of an unforeseen refugee situation that is "justified by grave humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest," and that cannot be managed under regular refugee processing. The situation facing Afghan women and girls at risk of gender-based violence who are trapped in shelters presents such a situation and warrants Priority 2 designation.

Women and girls bear the scars of conflict in unique ways including heightened incidents of conflict-related sexual violence; their needs must be our priority. If admitted as refugees, these individuals will have the opportunity to achieve safety and to rebuild their lives. America has the ability to continue to support those women and girls who stood against violence and for freedom and self-determination. The time to act decisively is now.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The tricky question of demanding kids get vaccinated to attend school

By CORY FRANKLIN AND ROBERT WEINSTEIN
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

In Homer's "Iliad," the story of the war between the ancient Greeks and Trojans, the Greeks used a secret weapon, the Trojan horse, to vanquish their enemy at the close of a brutal 10-year conflict. In the battle against COVID-19, our own Trojan horse is vaccination.

Cases and deaths have fallen dramatically since their peaks in the winter. But just as the Trojan horse did not end the threats to the Greeks, which included a pandemic during a subsequent war with Sparta, we are not out of danger either.

The United Kingdom and Israel, both with higher percentages of vaccinated populations than the U.S., have seen case surges in the unvaccinated, as well as rare breakthrough infections in those vaccinated. Israel, where cases had been as low as 25 a day, is averaging 10 times as many new cases and the country has reinstituted masking. Likewise, the U.K. is now averaging 10 times as many cases as it did during its nadir.

As long as there is a large enough pool of unvaccinated people, viral variants will emerge. The most notable is the delta variant, first discovered in India, which spread across the globe and is responsible for the current surges in Israel and the U.K. Vaccination remains in a deadly race with the emergence of these extremely contagious variants. The good news is that the variants are susceptible to the vaccine. In Israel and the U.K., vaccination has limited transmission and simultaneously suppressed most, but not all, of the deaths and hospitalizations in both countries.

In the U.S., vaccination has been amazingly effective at protecting older, high-risk individuals, but our problem lies with the unvaccinated, especially young adults who may believe the pandemic is petering out. Adults ages 18 to 29 have the lowest vaccination rate of any age group in the U.S. Fortunately, younger

adults who are infected have fewer hospitalizations and lower mortality rates, although the problem of "long-haul" COVID-19 residual symptoms remains a risk. There is also the danger of spreading the virus to other unvaccinated people or to immunocompromised patients who can remain susceptible despite vaccination.

If current trends continue, delta could soon become the dominant U.S. strain. Cases are already rising in parts of the U.S. where vaccination rates are low and the delta prevalence is high.

What can we do? There is no good option but to vaccinate as many as quickly as possible—ensuring vaccination of all those eligible in the U.S. and ultimately of the entire planet's population.

Now we are faced with another nettlesome public health dilemma: whether to mandate vaccination of children for school attendance, as we do for other childhood vaccines.

For the safest school environment for children, vaccination must be mandatory for school staffs, who are adults in whom the vaccine has been extensively tested. But it becomes more complicated as the population cohort becomes younger. In-person learning is essential and the substantial risk of missing in-person learning must be weighed against uncertain vaccine risks. Although schools are on summer vacation, discussions should begin now on what it will take to open in the fall. And mandated vaccination for the young is on the docket.

There is no completely safe path; different countries are approaching the issue differently. In teenagers, mostly those 16-18, there has been justifiable concern about rare episodes of heart inflammation seen after receipt of the current mRNA vaccines, especially after second doses in boys. The risks after COVID-19 infection in these teenagers, including long COVID-19 and heart problems, are also rare—but more common than vaccine complications. In teenagers, the risk-benefit equation appears to come down on the side of vaccination. Data on the vaccine

in children under 12, in whom the risk-benefits are still being evaluated, will become available in the next several months.

There are many unknowns about the direction of COVID-19 and the variants heading into fall. So far, the vaccines have been effective against all comers—effective enough to justify a school mandate, which would be the best way to protect our children and ensure in-person classes. But mandates sometimes flout American sensibilities and may not be universally accepted, at least not immediately. In the absence of clear-cut guidance and scientific consensus on clear-cut benefit, many schools may take the "recommend" approach for now, with the knowledge that mandated COVID-19 student vaccination may ultimately be what is required.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has little choice but to issue some directive before the school year starts. As it stands now, encouraging parents to do the sensible might well have greater success at getting kids vaccinated than ordering parents to do the sensible.

In the companion piece to the "Iliad," the Odyssey, the hero Odysseus must undergo a number of ordeals in order to return to his home after the Trojan War. One ordeal was to sail through a dangerously narrow straight with a terrible monster, Scylla, on one side, and a treacherous whirlpool, Charybdis, on the other. "To be caught between Scylla and Charybdis" has come to mean being trapped between two equally unpleasant alternatives.

Like Odysseus, we are facing our own Scylla and Charybdis—whether to mandate vaccination as a precondition for children to attend school.

Dr. Cory Franklin is a retired intensive care physician. Dr. Robert Weinstein is an infectious disease specialist at Rush University Medical Center. The two worked together in Chicago during past flu outbreaks and the AIDS epidemic.

Legal weed is inevitable, but we'll survive

Consider this premise: For good or ill, the full legalization of marijuana in the United States for recreational purposes is inevitable.

How did we reach the point of inevitability? Gradually then suddenly. Colorado was the first state to allow recreational marijuana sales, beginning on Jan. 1, 2014. Officials anticipated annual sales of \$200 million and tax revenue of \$70 million. By 2017, sales had reached \$1.5 billion and Colorado's Department of Revenue reported tax income of \$250 million from pot sales.

Other states took note of the revenue, as well as the public will, and began to get on board. At present 18 states and Washington, D.C., have legalized recreational weed. In 2020 national sales reached \$20 billion.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

This letter is a response to a recent July 12 article, "Falun Dafa set to mark 22nd year..." that was published by *Saipan Tribune*, which mentions Falun Gong/Falun Dafa.

First of all, many of my friends practice Falun Dafa and I have studied and practiced it for over 20 years. It has made me healthier in mind and body, taught me to think of others first and always be the best person I can be.

Your article's strong stance on human rights is inspiring—reporting such as this may have the power to promote freedom of belief and stop persecution in the world outright if more media follow your lead.

Despite a world of misunderstandings and negative reports about Falun Gong, it's truly refreshing to see some positive news.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Jesse Nuytten
via email

And last week Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer joined Sens. Cory Booker and Ron Wyden in proposing legislation—the Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act—that will decriminalize marijuana at the federal level. Some of the revenue produced by the act will be funneled back into the communities that have been most negatively affected by the so-called war on drugs.

So the present trend is clear, and the outlook suggests inevitability, as well. According to a recent Gallup poll, nearly 70 percent of all Americans support legalization. In the 18-29 age group, the level of support reaches nearly 80 percent.

Weed legalization finds less support among Republicans, but even there the figure hovers around 50 percent. Further, legalization embodies two elements that are attractive to two strains of Republicans: the ones that are fond of user tax revenue and the ones who profess libertarianism.

In short, it appears that Americans want pot to be legal, and it behooves both parties to take notice as they consider their political futures.

Of course, the inevitability of marijuana legalization does not mean that it's a wise or healthy move. But at least it would resolve two thorny paradoxes that we've tolerated for decades:

The first is the pesky fact that marijuana is still illegal in most states, while alcohol and tobacco—at least as dangerous and probably more so—are not, a contradiction that seems impossible to rationalize.

The second paradox is the inconsistent consequences that we apply to marijuana offenders. A person of color can spend years in prison for dabbling in marijuana; celebrities such as Willie Nelson, Cheech and Chong, Woody Harrelson and Bill Maher have made pot smoking part of their public brand with no significant consequences. Weed legalization would resolve this glaring inequity.

So there's considerable logic to support the legalization of marijuana. Still, it's not a step we should take lightly. Indeed, I have misgivings.

I never consider this subject without thinking of the Russian

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.the United States.



writer Leo Tolstoy. In addition to his massive "War and Peace" and other grand novels, Tolstoy wrote a short essay in 1890 entitled "Why Do Men Stupefy Themselves?"

To Tolstoy, "stupefaction" was any condition that interfered with the rigorous application of a person's conscience. His answer was total abstinence from all stupefactors, especially wine, beer, spirits, narcotics and tobacco. And he wasn't fond of other distractions from a focused moral purpose, such as "amusements" and "games."

With our culture already awash in stupefactors, including an abundance of drugs, legal and illegal, as well as our all-consuming, addictive distractions of social media, video games, food, video and sports, Tolstoy might wonder why we want to legalize one more. It's a good question.

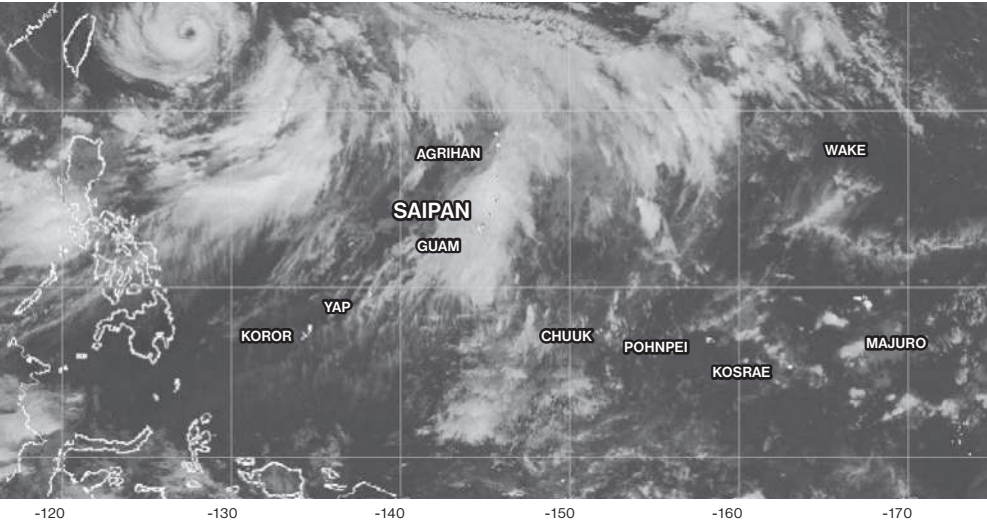
On the other hand, few of humankind's discoveries have caused more misery, ill health, disruption and violence than alcohol. Still, would we want to live all the time under the sober dictates of the severe, abstemious conscience that reigns in Tolstoy's ideal world? Well, that's another good question.

But both questions are moot. Americans don't have much appetite for self-denying prohibitions, and we are unlikely to continue to deny ourselves the pleasures and perils of pot. Since legalization is probably inevitable, the answer is moderation.

Unfortunately, moderation isn't our strong suit, either. Still, if alcohol, anti-vaxxers and anti-maskers haven't destroyed our country, marijuana is unlikely to do so, either.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Cloudy. Occasional locally heavy showers and scattered thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:40 AM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows mostly cloudy skies and isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters. Numerous showers are just to the west, and have been propagating to the southeast. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 3 to 4 feet. Since there is a slight uptrend, have reported this in the CWF as 3 to 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Palau	Rain	83° / 78°	
Yap	Showers	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Monday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:34 AM	5:09 PM
Friday	-	4:37 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	-	5:41 AM	7:10 PM
Sunday	-	6:44 AM	8:02 PM
Monday	-	7:44 AM	8:48 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	52° / 43°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	84° / 66°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	91° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 61°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 67°	
Manila	Rain	84° / 79°	
Melbourne	Windy	63° / 48°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°	
New York	Thunderstorms	83° / 67°	
Osaka	Thunderstorms	91° / 81°	
Paris	Showers	82° / 75°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	86° / 72°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	92° / 74°	
San Francisco	Sunny	64° / 53°	
Seoul	Thunderstorms	88° / 73°	
Tokyo	Showers	88° / 79°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	82° / 69°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:43 AM	High Tide	2.17	
12:19 PM	Low Tide	-0.31	
7:40 PM	High Tide	2.07	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 7 via Guam	MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				UA184	9:50pm	4:05am+1	5
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	10:25pm	4:20am+1	1, 3
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3	LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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Memorial association to mark Amelia Earhart's birthday

The Amelia Earhart Memorial Association is once again inviting the public to the 124th birthday commemoration of aviatrix Amelia Earhart, who was born on July 24, 1897.

The association is hosting the birthday commemoration at the CNMI Museum on Saturday, July 24, 2021, from 9am to 12pm.

The association is celebrating Earhart's birthday with various activities to sustain the effort of providing public education to the community.

"Our effort is not to draw conclusion with evidence. What is important is [throughout] history, only the people of Saipan have attested by testimonial that Earhart was last seen [on] Saipan. For this reason, the association is proud to build the Amelia Earhart Monument on Saipan and have been working tirelessly to solicit funds for the monument," said the association in a statement.

"Every year that we do public education, more people are getting involved and we see their support. This year we

have been going to the schools and presented to the students the history of Amelia Earhart," the statement added.

Various activities and presentations will be held at the NMI Museum this Saturday, one by Fr. Michael of the Dio-

cese of Chalan Kanoa, who will share his father's story about Earhart. A poem composed by Marie SC. Castro will be read, and the Marianas High School Music and Art group will perform with their instructor, Gina Aguilar. There

will also be a tour of the museum and refreshments will be served.

Entrance to the NMI Museum is free but everyone is being urged to practice social distancing and use face masks. The association thanks Her-

man's Modern Bakery for donating the birthday cake in last year's event and to all who contributed to the success of last year's event.

"For this year's event, we are extending our appreciation to the CNMI Museum board of

directors and Mr. Dan Aquino and staff, Mr. Glen Manglona of Marianas Agupa on his talk show last Saturday, and all of our media group, and to those individuals who have taken part in the planning and contributions of this year's event,"

Pokiyaki signs on as ProaPerks Partner

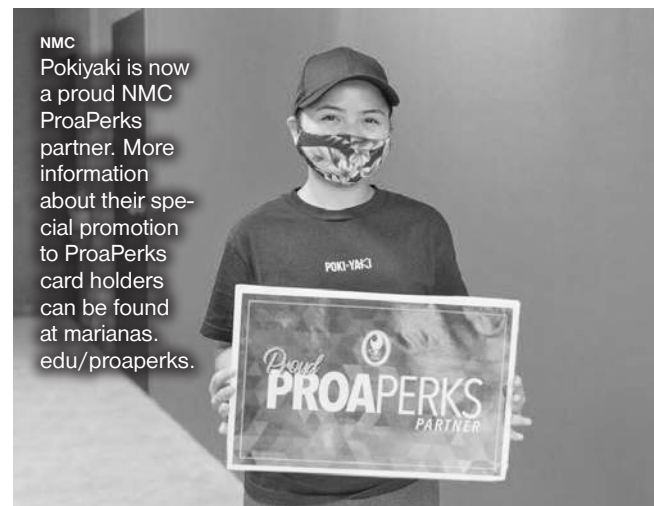
Pokiyaki is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni..

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 10% discount on any food and/or drink purchase at Pokiyaki.

Pokiyaki joins the growing list of ProaPerks partners, such as 153 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, 360 Restaurant, Alamo Car Rental, All Star Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., Athlete's Foot, Avis Rent A Car, BAB Korean Restaurant Cup Bab, Boarderline, Bolis R US 2, Bubba Gump, Candle J,

Caravan of Food, Casa Urashima, Chelu Alynez Enterprise, Chungi Wa Korean Restaurant, Coral Garden Hotel, D' Chef's Kitchen, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days, Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Fork and Spoon, Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, Gold's Gym, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Company LLC. dba Ginen Saipan, Ha'ani Company, Healing Stones Spa, Highway Express Auto Care Center, Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc./Tan Marikita's Cafe, Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, Ice Island Coffee & Ice Deserts, Ina's Kitchen, Isla Shave Ice, International Roller Skates, Java Joe's, JC Cafe, Judy's Cafe & Restaurant, Junlyn Salon, Kentucky Fried

Chicken/Taco Bell, Kevin's Cafe, Kiki's, Latte Build Gym, Lohas Massage, Lucky Store, Lucky II Mart, Magbers Snack Bar, Mama D's Cafe, Marianas Creation, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Megabyte, Mermaid Restaurant & Milk tea, Micafe Snack Corner, Nam Dae Moon, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, Neni Girl Nails, NMC Bookstore, Ocean Candy, Ocean Star Restaurant, Pacific Home Appliances, Pena House Boutique, Pizzeria Bar & Grill, Saipan Computer Services, Shirley's Cafe, Salty's, Summer Snow Cafe & Kids Corner cafe, Surf Club, The Ohala Foundation Clothing, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Tinian Diamond Hotel, Tribe Marianas, and Triple J Motors.



NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks. Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part

of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. (PR)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB21-CHCC/CGC-SOC-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 26, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP21-CHCC/CGC-HT-SOC-002

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 23rd, 2021 • TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROFESSIONAL SERVICES"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF/ITS-136

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 03, 2021 • TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CARGO VAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE – OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
RFP NO.: DPW21-RFP-029

SUBMISSION DATE: August 24, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Development and Implementation of a Pyrolysis Pilot on the island of Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **July 22, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **August 10, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Solid Waste Transfer Station Conference Room 2nd Floor, Lower Base, Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 17, 2021** to **Ms. Lorraine S. Villagomez, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, or **Blas T. Mafnas Acting Director of Solid Waste Management Division Lower base Transfer Station**, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF/CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE-133

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 16, 2021 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"(A) PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "G" 4WD, TWO DOORS PICK-UP TRUCK (B) PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) CLASS "F" 4WD, FOUR (4) FULL DOORS PICK UP TRUCK (C) PURCHASE OF SIX (6) CLASS "I" 5-DOOR UTILITY VEHICLE (D) PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) ALL TERRAIN/RUGGED UTILITY VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, DIVISION OF CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

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/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Business

BALI FASHION

Back-to-school sale

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

For this upcoming school year, Bali Fashion on Middle Road in Gualo Rai is having a back-to-school promo from July 26 to Aug. 31, giving parents bigger chances at getting more bang for their bucks.

Bali Fashion president Shabbir F. Shakir said the store usually has a back-to-school promotion yearly but this year's promo is extra special. "We are starting early and ending on the last day of August so we can give community members a chance to get their local stimulus checks so they have means to get their children school uniforms and apparels," he said.

"We already have a lot of new items that came in, like school uniforms, such as khaki pants and shorts that are popular with Mt. Carmel School students. We also have casual wear for students who do not wear uniforms in school," he said.

He said most of their items come from the United States and cater to every member of the family, with sizes for children, teenagers, and adults.

"For shorts and slacks, we carry big sizes—5X, 6X and all the way to size 58. Big sizes are hard to find on Saipan so when people come in and find the right size for them, they are



Bali Fashion president Shabbir F. Shakir said the community's patronage is the reason why they are surviving.

BEA CABRERA

happy," he added.

For over 25 years, Bali Fashion has been a popular destination for clothes, apparel, bags, shoes, swimwear etc., Name it and they probably have it in quantity, at affordable prices.

Everyday is discount day at Bali Fashion where they offer

10% to 25% discount on several items. One of the store's most

popular promo is called "Mix and Match," which Shakir said many local residents love.

"Mix and Match" is when you combine items from different choices as long as they are of the same discount price. For example, our three items for \$25 promo that is composed of T-shirts, customers can pick out one or two items and replace them with another item, say, a pair of shorts or pants from another rack as long as they are of the same price or promo of three items for \$25. This way, a cus-

tomers can walk out with a complete wardrobe and only spent \$25. That is a very good deal and people appreciate it," he said.

Since Bali Fashion has been running for over 25 years now, customers have become friends, Shakir said. "It is great to see the third generation of shoppers come to the store. They remember me and I remember them as children when their parents would bring them to the shop."

"I am grateful for the community's support and because of their support we are surviving. The store was named 'Bali' as it is a local word for guaranteed and, as the name suggests, customers are always guaranteed to get quality items at good prices," he added.

Bali Fashion is open Monday to Sunday from 10am to 8pm. For more information, call (670) 233-1190 or (670) 287-8250. You can also check their Facebook page: Bali Fashion Saipan.

United posts \$434M 2Q loss but revenue up

United Airlines reduced its quarterly loss to \$434 million and posted surprisingly strong revenue as U.S. vacation travel picked up.

In reporting second-quarter results Tuesday, the Chicago-based airline said it expects to earn a pretax profit in the remaining two quarters of the year. That would break a string of six-straight money-losing quarters since the pandemic began to crush air travel.

"Our airline has reached a meaningful turning point: We're expecting to be back to making a profit once again," CEO Scott Kirby said in a prepared statement.

However, United is trailing key rivals as the airlines claw to get back to profitability. In April, Southwest was the first U.S. airline to report a profit since the pandemic hit,

and Delta followed last week—in both cases, profits were possible only because airlines have received \$54 billion from taxpayers.

United said it can become profitable this year without more government money. Wall Street expects losses in both the third and fourth quarters.

United's shares rose 6.6% in regular trading Tuesday as travel stocks rebounded from large losses on Monday. In extended trading after the results were released, the shares slipped about 1%.

More than 2 million people a day have boarded planes in the U.S. this month, nearly the double the number that were flying back in March.

The recovery, however, is very fragile. Travel is still down 20% from pre-pandemic July 2019. High-fare corporate and

international flyers, who contribute an oversized portion of United's revenue, are still mostly absent, although United said both are improving faster than expected. United filled 83% of seats on domestic flights but only 53% on international ones.

United recently told investors about plans to build its U.S. operation, "but the company is still dependent on international routes to make a full profit recovery," said Peter McNally, an analyst with Third Bridge Group in New York.

United's second-quarter loss would have been far worse—\$1.3 billion—without more than \$1 billion in federal pandemic aid, which was partly offset by one-time charges. The airline was also hit by higher expenses for jet fuel. (AP)

Nation

Jeff Bezos blasts into space

VAN HORN, Texas (AP)—Jeff Bezos blasted into space Tuesday on his rocket company's first flight with people on board, becoming the second billionaire in just over a week to ride his own spacecraft.

The Amazon founder was accompanied by a hand-picked group: his brother, an 18-year-old from the Netherlands and an 82-year-old aviation pioneer from Texas—the youngest and oldest to ever fly in space.

"Best day ever!" Bezos said when the capsule touched down on the desert floor in remote West Texas after the 10-minute flight.

Named after America's first astronaut, Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket soared on the 52nd anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, a date chosen by Bezos for its historical significance. He held fast to it, even as Virgin Galactic's Richard Branson pushed up his own flight from New Mexico and beat him to space by nine days.

The two private companies chasing space tourism dollars, though, have drawn criticism for catering to the rich while so many are struggling amid the pandemic.

During Tuesday's flight, Blue Origin's capsule reached an altitude of about



From left, Oliver Daemen, Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon and space tourism company Blue Origin; Wally Funk, and Bezos' brother, Mark, pose for photos in front of the Blue Origin New Shepard rocket after their launch from the spaceport near Van Horn, Texas, Tuesday, July 20, 2021.

AP

66 miles (106 kilometers), more than 10 miles (16 kilometers) higher than Branson's July 11 ride. The 60-foot (18-meter) booster accelerated to Mach 3 or three times the speed of sound to get the capsule high enough, before separating and landing upright.

Unlike Branson's piloted rocket plane, Bezos' capsule was completely automated and required no official staff on board for the up-and-down flight.

During their several minutes of weightlessness, video from inside the capsule showed the four floating, doing somersaults, tossing

Skittles candies and throwing balls, with lots of cheering, whooping and exclamations of "Wow!" The Bezos brother also joined their palms to display a "HI MOM" greeting written on their hands. The capsule landed under parachutes, with Bezos and his guests briefly experiencing nearly six times the force of gravity, or 6 G's, on the way back.

Led by Bezos, they climbed out of the capsule after touchdown with wide grins, embracing parents, partners and children, then popped open bottles of sparkling wine, spraying one another.



ACROSS THE NATION

Trump inaugural committee head accused of being UAE agent

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The chair of former President Donald Trump's 2017 inaugural committee was arrested Tuesday on charges alleging he secretly conspired to influence U.S. policy to benefit the United Arab Emirates, even while he was seeking a position as an American diplomat. Tom Barrack, 74, of Santa Monica, California, was among three men charged in federal court in Brooklyn, New York, with acting as unregistered foreign agents as they tried to influence U.S. policy on the UAE's behalf while Trump was running in 2016 and later while he was president. Besides conspiracy, Barrack was charged with obstruction of justice and making multiple false statements during a June 2019 interview with federal agents. Also charged in a seven-count indictment were Matthew Grimes, 27, of Aspen, Colorado, who is a former executive at Barrack's company, and Rashid al Malik, 43, a businessman from the United Arab Emirates who prosecutors said acted as a conduit to that nation's rulers.

Big infrastructure bill in peril; GOP threatens filibuster

WASHINGTON (AP)—The bipartisan infrastructure deal senators brokered with President Joe Biden is hanging precariously ahead of a crucial Wednesday test vote as they struggle over how to pay for nearly \$1 trillion in public works spending. Tensions were rising as Republicans prepared to mount a fili-

buster over what they see as a rushed and misguided process. With Biden preparing to hit the road to rally support for his big infrastructure ideas—including some \$3.5 trillion in a follow-up bill—restless Democrats say it's time to at least start debate on this first phase of his proposals. "It is not a fish or cut bait moment," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Tuesday, describing the procedural vote as just a first step to "get the ball rolling" as bipartisan talks progress.

Massive wildfires in US West bring haze to East Coast

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Wildfires in the American West, including one burning in Oregon that's currently the largest in the U.S., are creating hazy skies as far away as New York as the massive infernos spew smoke and ash into the air in columns up to six miles high. Skies over New York City were hazy Tuesday as strong winds blew smoke east from California, Oregon, Montana and other states. Oregon's Bootleg Fire grew to 606 square miles (1,569 square kilometers)—half the size of Rhode Island. Fires also grew on both sides of California's Sierra Nevada. In Alpine County, the so-called California Alps, the Tamarack Fire caused evacuations of several communities and grew to 61 square miles (158 square kilometers) with no containment. The Dixie Fire, near the site of 2018's deadly Paradise Fire, was more than 90 square miles (163 square kilometers) and threatened tiny communities in the Feather River Valley region.

Asia

Flooding in China turns streets to rivers, kills 12

BEIJING (AP)—At least 12 people died in severe flooding Tuesday in a Chinese provincial capital that trapped people in subways and schools, washed away vehicles and stranded people in their workplaces overnight.

The already drenched city of Zhengzhou, the capital of Henan province, was hit by 20 centimeters (8 inches) of rain from 4 to 5 p.m., the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing the Henan weather agency.

The torrent of rain turned streets into rapidly flowing rivers and inundated subway stations and cars. Videos posted online showed entire neighborhoods covered in waist-deep water and vehicles floating in the muddy mire.

To the north of Zhengzhou, the famed Shaolin Temple known for its Buddhist monks' mastery of martial arts was badly hit. Henan province is home to many cultural sites and a major base for industry and agriculture.

Xinhua said 12 people had died and 100,000 people had been moved to safer places.

Stranded people were spend-



Vehicles are stranded after a heavy downpour in Zhengzhou city, central China's Henan province on Tuesday, July 20, 2021. Heavy flooding has hit central China following unusually heavy rains, with the subway system in the city of Zhengzhou inundated with rushing water.

ing the night in their workplaces or checked into hotels.

Wang Guirong, a 56-year-old restaurant manager, said she planned to sleep on the couch in her restaurant after being told there was no power in her neighborhood. The State Grid Zhengzhou Power Supply Co. said a downtown substation was forced to shut

down because of the rain.

"I have lived in Zhengzhou all my life and have never seen such a heavy rainstorm as today," Wang said.

China experiences regular flooding during the summer, but the growth of cities and conversion of farmland into subdivisions has raised the impact of such events.

S. Korea virus surge spreads outside Seoul

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea reported a new high in daily coronavirus cases Wednesday, as a surge spreading beyond the capital puts pressure on authorities to extend their toughest distancing rules.

New cases have exceeded 1,000 a day for two weeks amid a slow vaccination campaign, lax public vigilance and the spread of more contagious delta variant. A majority of the recent cases have been among people in the Seoul metropolitan area, but the virus is increasingly spreading beyond

the capital region.

Prime Minister Kim Booyum said more than 30% of daily cases were outside the capital region for a fourth consecutive day.

He said the next several weeks would be the most important period of the ongoing outbreak because many people are expected to travel across the country for summer vacations.

The 1,784 virus cases detected in the past 24-hour period was the country's biggest single-day jump since the pandemic began. The new

cases brought the country's total to 182,265 with 2,060 deaths, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency.

Earlier last week, the government enforced its highest-level distancing rules in the Seoul area for two weeks by banning gatherings of three or more people after 6 p.m. and shutting down high-risk facilities such as nightclubs. Authorities on Monday launched a similar a four-person cap on private gatherings in areas outside the capital region.

HK police arrest ex-Apple Daily editor

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong national security police on Wednesday arrested a former editor at the now-defunct Apple Daily pro-democracy newspaper, weeks after the paper was forced to close after authorities froze its assets.

Lam Man-chung, who was the executive editor-in-chief of Apple Daily, was arrested on suspicion of conspiring to collude with foreign forces to endanger national security, according to the South China Morning Post newspaper, which cited an unnamed source. He is the eighth person

from the newspaper who has been arrested in recent weeks.

Police said that a 51-year-old former editor was arrested Wednesday in relation to a similar case in June, but did not identify him.

In June, police raided the newspaper's offices, taking away hard drives and laptops as evidence. The arrests of top executives, editors and journalists at the paper, as well as the freezing of \$2.3 million worth of assets, led Apple Daily



Lam

to cease its operations last month. It sold a million copies of its final edition.

Following months of anti-government protests in 2019, Beijing last year imposed a sweeping national security law in the semi-autonomous

city that critics say restricts the freedoms promised to the former British colony that are not found on mainland China. More than 100 pro-democracy supporters have been arrested, and many others fled abroad.

World

Haiti installs new leader

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Haiti's government installed a new prime minister on Tuesday, while officials mourned assassinated President Jovenel Moïse and arrested at least three police officers implicated in his killing.

Designated Prime Minister Ariel Henry was sworn in to replace interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph, who assumed leadership of Haiti with the backing of police and the military after the July 7 attack at Moïse's private home, which also badly injured his wife and stunned the nation of more than 11 million people.

"The task that awaits us is complex and difficult," Henry said as he called for unity and promised to meet with various sectors in upcoming days to build consensus. "I'm from a school that believes in dialogue."

He also thanked "sister nations" that he didn't identify for their solidarity and expertise in the ongoing investigation as he demanded that all those responsible be brought to justice.

Henry, a neurosurgeon and

former Cabinet minister, has promised to form a provisional consensus government to lead Haiti until elections are held. He said he has already met with various unidentified actors as well as civil society and the private sector. He pledged to re-establish order and security and confidence in the government as well as fight corruption, make COVID-19 vaccines available to all, restart the economy and create a credible and transparent elections system.

Joseph, who spoke before presenting Henry, also urged unity and wished him much courage and determination while warning him: "You inherit a remarkable situation ... a political crisis without precedence... galloping insecurity, a morose and precarious socioeconomic situation."

After the ceremony, Henry's new Cabinet was formally presented, with the ministers



Henry

of justice, economy, finance, agriculture and others keeping their positions.

Before Henry officially became prime minister, a crowd of international dignitaries and Haitian officials

clad in somber suits sat under the shade of pink and white bougainvillea in the yard of the Nation Pantheon Museum in downtown Port-au-Prince to commemorate Moïse, whose assassination left a political void.

A large portrait of the slain president hung behind Joseph as he spoke to mourners. "The president is dead because of his political and social convictions," he said.

Joseph accused oligarchs and criminals of assassinating the president's character and then the president himself. He called on everyone to seize the moment as an opportunity to find a common purpose and durable, viable solutions.

» As country mourns slain president

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran says police officer killed in unrest amid water protest

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—An Iranian police officer was killed during unrest in the country's restive southwest amid ongoing demonstrations over water shortages, state media reported Wednesday, raising the death toll in the unrest to at least two people. Gunfire killed the officer in the city of Mahshar and another suffered a gunshot wound to his leg, the state-run IRNA news agency reported. The report blamed "rioters" for the killing, without elaborating. The protests already saw another man killed, according to Iranian media reports. Iran in the past has blamed demonstrators for deaths occurring amid heavy-handed crackdowns by security forces. There have been six days of continuous protests in Iran's oil-rich Khuzestan province, home to ethnic Arabs who complain of discrimination by Iran's Shiite theocracy. Water worries in the past have sent angry demonstrators into the streets in Iran. The country has faced rolling blackouts for weeks now, in part over what authorities describe as a severe drought.

Precipitation had decreased by almost 50% in the last year, leaving dams with dwindling water supplies.

UK: Con woman stole diamonds by swapping them for pebbles

LONDON (AP)—A British court has heard how a woman allegedly pretended to be a gem expert and swapped diamonds worth 4.2 million pounds (\$5.7 million) for pebbles using "sleight of hand" at a luxury London jeweler. Prosecutors said Tuesday that Lulu Lakatos, 60, posed as a gem expert and went to jewelry shop Boodles in London's tony Mayfair area in March 2016, allegedly to value seven diamonds on behalf of a group of wealthy Russian buyers. The diamonds, which included a 20-carat heart-shaped diamond valued at more than 2.2 million pounds, were to be placed in a locked bag and held in the jeweler's vault until payment was transferred. But when Boodles' own diamond expert became suspicious and opened the bag the next day, she found seven small pebbles. Prosecutor Philip Stott said the diamonds had been "stolen by the defendant by sleight of hand."

Iran's daily new coronavirus infections hit another high

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran on Tuesday broke another record in the country's daily new coronavirus cases, even as Tehran and its surroundings went into lockdown, a week-long measure imposed amid another surge in the pandemic. The country's health ministry announced 27,444 new cases and 250 deaths over the past day, bringing the overall death toll to 87,624 from among more than 3.5 million confirmed cases in the pandemic. On Tuesday, Iran embarked on another lockdown—the nation's fifth so far—that is meant to last until next Monday. All bazaars, marketplaces and public offices closed, as well as movie theaters, gyms and restaurants, in both Tehran province and the neighboring province of Alborz. On Monday, Tehran Province Gov. Anoushiravan Bandpay announced a code red, saying all hospitals in the province have reached their full capacity. During an earlier surge in cases, in April, Iran reported the highest daily number of cases, 25,582. At the time, its daily death tolls surged to around 400, below the grim record of 486 reached last November.

Environment

Plastic bag fee bill advances; \$1 proposed fee cut to 10 cents

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

The House Committee on Commerce and Tourism adopted yesterday the bill pushing for a fee for every single-use plastic bag provided to customers by retailers in the CNMI. The fee, originally pegged at a dollar per bag, has been amended and re-

duced to 10 cents.

Introduced by Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan), the Eco-Friendly Act of 2021 (House Bill 22-56) intends to discourage the use of non-compostable plastic bags, and encourage the use of reusable bags in the CNMI, by imposing a fee that sellers must collect.

This applies to retail busi-

nesses, including restaurants, office supply stores and basically all sellers that issue plastic bags upon checkout.

"The fee per plastic bag was reduced to 10 cents per bag, regardless of size and the enforcement agency was changed to the Division of Revenue and Tax, since they already visit stores for en-

forcement purposes," Babauta said, in reference to the amendments to the bill.

"Once this bill becomes law, sellers and consumers will have 30 days before the fee is assessed. After one year of having this option to purchase plastic bags, sellers will no longer be allowed to import, sell or distribute single-

use plastic checkout bags."

According to Babauta, the CNMI is falling behind in its commitment to address single-use plastic bags, and may even be the last Pacific island community to do so. Guam, Samoa, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, and many other places have already implemented either a fee or an outright ban on single-use plastics, she said.

"The United Nations Climate Change Conference recognized the Pacific Islands in leading the way to banning single-use plastic. We want to show our brothers and sisters in the Pacific, and throughout the world, that we are committed to climate justice and support environmental health," Babauta said.

Once enacted, sellers aside will not only collect the fee but will also have to provide a monthly report on the collection and actual costs incurred to the Department of Finance, and its Division of Revenue and Taxation would be the enforcement arm. The division

may also conduct inspections without prior notice during the sellers' regular business hours.

Failure to comply constitutes a fine of \$1,000 for the first violation, per seller per day; \$1,500 for second violation, per seller per day; and \$2,500 for any subsequent violations, per seller per day.

In addition, the bill, once enacted, would also ban the importation, sale, or distribution of any single-use plastic bag to consumers a year from its effectivity.

"I believe this movement to reduce single-use plastic bag pollution is in the best interest of the CNMI. We already have consumers using reusable bags to shop and would pay the small fee, if necessary," Babauta said. "I understand the transition may be challenging, but I believe going through that discomfort will lead us to a brighter CNMI—modeling responsible stewardship of our environment and sustainable practices to our children and grandchildren."

Diners' discarded shells help establish new oyster colonies

PORT REPUBLIC, N.J. (AP)—Call it the seafood circle of life: Shells discarded by diners are being collected, cleaned and dumped into waterways around the country and the world, where they form the basis of new oyster colonies.

One of the latest such projects is taking place in Atlantic City, where a casino and two other restaurants are saving the shells left over from their diners. The shells are then collected by the state Department of Environmental Protection, and workers and volunteers with Rutgers and Stockton universities and the Jetty Rock Foundation load them on barges and dump them into the Mullica River.

That waterway is home to one of the last self-sustaining oyster populations on the Atlantic coast, according to Shawn LaTourette, the state's environmental commissioner. The clam, oyster and other shells form the basis of new or expanded oyster colonies when free-floating baby oysters, known as spat, attach to the shells and begin to grow on them.

"You have the benefit not only of ecological restoration, but it has kept 65 tons of shells out of landfills," said Scott Stueber, a fisheries biologist with the DEP. That helps the eateries save on waste disposal costs.

The program began in 2019

and currently collects oysters from the Hard Rock casino, the Knife & Fork restaurant and Dock's Oyster House in Atlantic City. Several other casinos have expressed interest in joining.

"We go through a ton of these shells at our restaurants," said Grace Chow, Hard Rock's vice president of food and beverages. "The buffet on a slow day will shuck 500 oysters, and on a busy day, 1,200."

Oysters are nature's filters: a single adult oyster can strain particles and contaminants from 50 gallons of water a day. In addition to improving water quality, oyster colonies also are being planted along coastlines as a shore stabilization and storm mitigation strategy: the bumpy underwater colonies can act as speed bumps for destructive waves headed for the shoreline, dissipating some of their energy.

The goal is not so much to create new places to harvest and sell oysters for consumption as to improve the environment.

In New Jersey, oysters can be harvested for commercial use in Delaware Bay, and the state has a robust aquaculture industry that grows them. The Mullica River project aims to grow oysters for ecological purposes, but it is being studied for possible approval as a commercial harvesting site in the future, the DEP said.



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Volunteers of the University of Guam Sea Grant's GROW Initiative work to restore Guam's southern watershed during a reforestation event.

The University of Guam Sea Grant Program has been awarded two new grants worth \$250,000 to support its watershed restoration project and community outreach efforts.

The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service awarded UOG Sea Grant with a \$199,849 Landscape Scale Restoration Grant. The funds will go towards their Guam Restoration of Watershed (GROW) Initiative's ongoing restoration work in Inaláhan.

"This grant will help us continue our Ugu watershed project," said Austin Shelton, director of UOG Sea Grant. "We will continue to restore the watershed adjacent to the rivers and streams that supply most of the water to southern Guam."

A watershed is a catchment area between the divides of mountains where water collects, flows through the land into rivers and streams, and eventually discharges into a body of water. Managing watersheds is important in pre-

venting erosion and pollution from smothering coral reefs and harming marine wildlife.

The grant will fund the restoration project, which aims to improve the health of Guam's watershed and coastal ecosystems through June 2023.

UOG Sea Grant was also awarded a \$50,000 grant from the National Sea Grant office. The funds will help keep the flow of information moving as it will support the program's communication and outreach extension efforts. The grant also supports their Tasi Outreach Trailer, which will bring educational lessons about marine safety, biology, and preservation to villages throughout the island.

"The need for resources and information has increased during the pandemic," said UOG Sea Grant associate director Fran Castro. "Our response to this increase is to rapidly grow the online resources webpage; create and share research and extension products and information through monthly



UOG Sea Grant Outreach coordinator Phil Cruz gives a lesson from the Tasi Outreach Trailer at an underwater cleanup event at Merizo Pier.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

newsletters; develop guidelines and procedures for successful virtual outreach; and implement previously developed knowledge tools."

UOG Sea Grant is one of 34 programs within the National Sea Grant College Program—a partnership among universities and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that seeks to enhance the

practical use and conservation of coastal and marine resources to create a sustainable economy and environment. The Sea Grant network includes more than 3,000 scientists, engineers, public outreach experts, educators, and students.

For more information on the UOG Sea Grant Program, visit www.uog.edu/seagrant. (UOG)

Life & Style

Chinese pop star dumped by brands over sex complaint

BEIJING (AP)—A popular Chinese-Canadian singer, Kris Wu, has lost endorsement and other deals with at least 10 brands including Porsche and Bulgari after a teen-ager accused him of having sex with her while she was drunk.

The former member of Korean boy band EXO denied the accusation, which prompted an outpouring of supportive comments for the woman online and criticism of Wu.

"There was no 'groupie sex'! There was no 'underage'!" Wu said on his social media account, which has 52 million followers. "If there were this kind of thing, please everyone relax, I would put myself in jail!"

The backlash after the accusation appeared on the internet portal NetEase reflects the growing willingness of Chinese women to speak up about abuses in a male-dominated society.

Brands cut ties with Wu the next day. They are acutely sensitive to public opinion after the ruling Communist Party stirred up anger at shoe and clothing brands in retaliation for Western reports of human rights abuses in the mostly Muslim region of Xin-



Singer Kris Wu, center, performs in the 2017 Tmall 11.11 Global Shopping Festival gala, in Shanghai, China on Nov. 10, 2017.

jiang in the northwest.

In addition to Porsche and Bulgari, brands including Tuborg Beer and China's Tencent Video and Master Kong Ice Tea scrapped endorsement, appearance and other deals with Wu. Lancome said its contract with Wu ended last month.

Louis Vuitton said it suspended a contract with Wu. Some comments left on websites criticized the company for not dropping him outright.

The woman told NetEase that when she was 17, Wu encouraged her to drink too much at a party and she woke up in his bed.

"I hate it so much that my teeth itch," she was quoted as saying. "I hate myself even more, hate it so much that I want to commit suicide."

The woman said other women told her Wu seduced them, sometimes when they were under 18, with promises of jobs and other

opportunities. There was no indication any were under China's age of consent of 14 or that Wu faces accusations of criminal misconduct.

Weinstein brought to California to face further rape charges

LOS ANGELES (AP)—New York prison officials handed convicted rapist Harvey Weinstein over to California on Tuesday to face additional sexual assault charges, ending the former movie mogul's lengthy fight to delay his extradition.

Weinstein, 69, was booked into a downtown Los Angeles jail

Tuesday afternoon, records showed. He could be arraigned on 11 sexual assault counts, including four counts of rape, as early as Wednesday morning, according to his LA attorney, Mark Werksman. The district

"Get out of China," said a comment left under Wu's social media post.

Wu, known in Chinese as Wu Yifan, grew up in Guangzhou in southern China and in Vancouver, British Columbia. He performed with EXO in 2012-14 and then launched a solo career.

As an actor, he appeared in 2017's "XXX: Return of Xander Cage" and two Chinese box office successes, "Mr. Six" and "Journey to the West: The Demons Strike Back."

Both Wu, 30, and the woman said they asked police to investigate.

Wu said he waited to respond publicly to avoid interfering with legal action.

Wu wrote he met the woman at a friend's gathering on Dec. 5, 2020, but "I didn't force her to drink," and "there was not this sort of 'details' she describes."

"I didn't expect my silence

to encourage these rumors, and I couldn't stand it!" Wu wrote. "There were a lot of people there that day who can bear witness."

In March, the ruling party targeted H&M, Nike and other global brands over past expressions of concern about reports of forced labor in Xinjiang, where foreign governments say more than 1 million people have been confined in detention camps.

State TV called for a boycott of H&M, causing sales in China to plunge. Other official media criticized Adidas, Nike, Zara, Burberry and New Balance. More than 30 Chinese singers and actors pulled out of endorsement contracts with H&M, Nike and Adidas.

The ruling party claims credit for improving women's status in China but has tried to suppress the "#MeToo" movement as a potential source of political unrest.

attorney's office had no immediate comment.

Weinstein's lawyers had been trying to negotiate to stop the transfer, but it had been expected to happen soon, his spokesperson Juda Engelmayer said.

"We will be fighting so that Harvey can receive his needed medical care and of course, so that he can be treated fairly," Engelmayer said. "Due process, presumption of innocence and a fair trial are all still his right."

A New York judge in June

approved Weinstein's extradition to California, denying his lawyers' request to keep him at a state prison near Buffalo, where he is serving a 23-year sentence for a rape conviction last year, until the start of jury selection in the Los Angeles case.

Weinstein's lawyer, Norman Effman, argued he should remain in the New York facility's hospital-like maximum-security setting while receiving treatment for health problems including a loss of eyesight.

Weinstein's time in custody in California will count toward his New York sentence, officials said.

Miss Universe competition will be held in Israel in December

NEW YORK (AP)—Miss Universe is heading to Israel for its 70th competition.

The Miss Universe Organization announced Tuesday that the pageant will be held this December in the southern resort city of Eilat.

Steve Harvey will once again return as host.

The three-hour event will

broadcast live on Fox in the U.S. and also in 180 countries and territories across the globe. It will end with the current Miss Universe, Mexico's Andrea Meza, crowning her successor.

Meza, a former software engineer, has advocated for women's rights and is also encouraging people to get the vaccine from COVID-19.

Soon after she was named Miss Universe, Meza invited the media to cover her first vaccination shot in New York.

In a statement released by the Miss Universe Organization, Meza said she hopes "as many people as possible" get vaccinated so they can participate in the 70th Miss Universe contest.

Wife can't convey uncertainty of pregnancy to husband

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together for eight years, married for two. We recently started discussing having a family. I have polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), and it may be difficult for me to get pregnant. I suffered a miscarriage earlier this year. Until it happened, I didn't realize how badly I wanted a baby.

We both feel we are ready to be parents. However, I'm terrified that I won't be able to conceive or that I'll lose the baby again. My husband is so optimistic. He thinks everything will be fine and, as soon as we decide to get pregnant, it will happen. I have tried explaining PCOS to him, but he seems oblivious to what could be our reality.

I don't know how to get through to him so he won't be severely disappointed if having biological children isn't in the cards for us. Do you have any suggestions?

TROUBLED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR TROUBLED: Please accept my sympathy for your miscarriage. Because you haven't been able to get through to your husband that the road to parenthood may be bumpy, enlist the assistance of your OB/GYN or your fertility specialist to explain it to him. That way, if what you fear is true, you can better support each other. I wish you both good luck on this journey.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am 56 and I had an affair with a woman I met 17 years ago. We grew close and five years later we moved in together. We separated five years after that, but stayed friends. At that time, her daughter "Chloe" and I developed feelings for each other.

Chloe's mom became sick two years ago and has now passed away. I love Chloe, but she doesn't want anyone to know about our affair. I don't see how we can hide this any longer. Do you think this relationship will work out?

PONDERING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR PONDERING: You're asking the wrong woman. It's time for you to have a serious talk with Chloe to ask why she doesn't want anyone to know about the affair. Her answer will tell you everything you need to know about where your future is—or is not—heading.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My dad has a hearing problem. Every night he nods off in his recliner. When it's time for me to go to bed and I turn the TV off, he turns it right back on instead of just going to bed like he should. I'm one of those people who needs quiet in order to fall asleep. Abby, this has been going on since I moved in here with my parents. I have done everything I can think of, but he just keeps doing it and I'm about ready to explode.

IRRITATED DAUGHTER

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR DAUGHTER: Have you tried enlisting your mother's help in getting through to your father? Have you tried earphones for him and earplugs for you? If the answer to these questions is yes, then you are either going to have to adjust or, for the sake of your health and sanity, find another place to live.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Pastimes

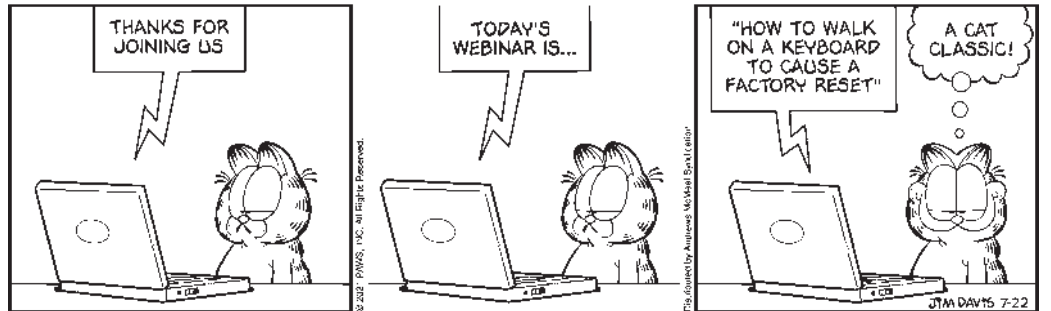
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



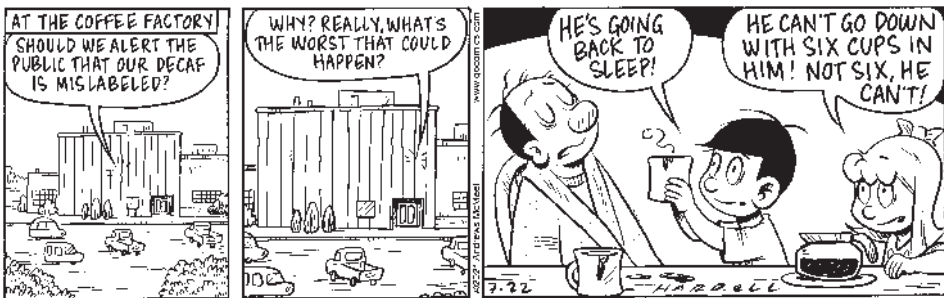
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



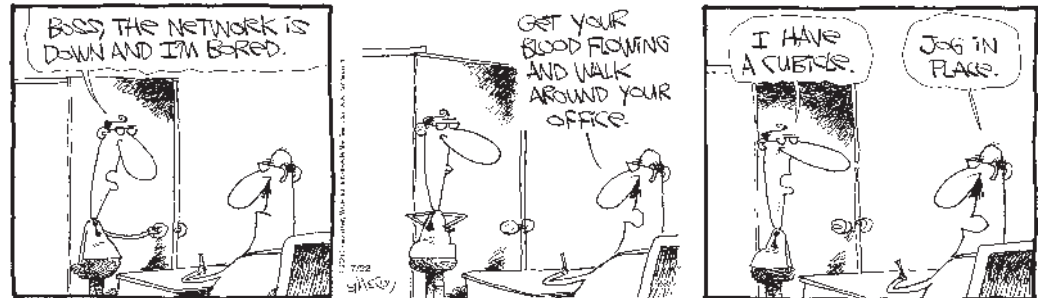
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	44 Like	DOWN	16 Perched
1 Satchel	Enya's	1 Glitch	20 Filch
4 Bryn —	music	2 Year in	21 Type
8 Equitable	46 Root	Spain	22 Director
12 Half of	veggie	3 "Day	Kazan
dos	50 Harry	by Day"	23 Indent
13 Fed.	Potter pal	musical	key
workplace	51 Lotion	4 Swabbed	27 Physique
monitor	additive	5 Enzyme	29 Mars,
14 Friend	52 Ares, for	suffix	e.g.
15 "Have	one	6 "That	30 Pharma-
a safe	56 Central	was	ceutical
trip!"	point	close!"	31 Stuffing
17 Enlist	57 Bern's	7 Doppler	herb
again	river	device	33 Renters
18 Tree fluid	58 Parisian	8 Jake	35 Family
19 Decorated	"yes"	Gyllenhaal	38 — Diego
soldier	59 Fr. holy	film	40 "Pippin"
21 Music for	women	9 Peter	star
seven	60 TV	Fonda	Ben
24 Caviar	host	role	43 Humidor
base	Seacrest	10 Insult	item
25 Flamenco	61 ER	11 Printing	45 Stir-fry
cheer	workers	error	vessel
26 Wee			46 Bad
dollop			reviews
28 Poets of			47 Oodles
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32 Streamlet			the
34 — choy			train
36 TV			49 Use a
explorer			rosary
37 Yarns			53 Historic
39 Mil. group			time
41 Coffee			54 "— Town"
holder			55 Insult,
42 Pouch			slangily

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	O	P	S	E	E	K	R	A	G	E
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A	G	T	B	L	U	E	W	H	A	L
N	A	A	C	P		E	R			
R	F	D	O	R	N	I	F	E	A	P
I	S	O	T	O	G	A	S	A	C	F
S	P	A	F	W	I	I	T	F	F	O
F	N	S	L	F	S	I	M			
				N	O	M	R	O	V	E
B	R	O	W	N	E	A	R	O	X	O
O	K	R	A		A	R	N	E	L	P
N	O	S	Y		S	A	I	D	T	O

Yesterday's answer 7-22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
		18				19		20		
21	22			23		24				
25			26		27		28	29	30	31
32		33		34		35		36		
37			38		39		40		41	
			42		43		44		45	
46	47	48			49		50			
51				52		53			54	55
56				57					58	
59				60					61	

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Selena Gomez, 29; A.J. Cook, 43; John Leguizamo, 57; David Spade, 57.

Happy Birthday: You are sitting in a better position than you realize. Use your imagination, and you'll come up with a plan that will help you expand your relationships as well as your knowledge and experience. Be open to suggestions, but when it comes to making decisions, do what's right for you. Your happiness depends on you and resolving pending emotional matters. Your numbers are 5, 13, 22, 26, 32, 37, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let anyone manipulate you. Make better decisions. Plan to do something that is physically exhilarating, and it will ease your mind and offer insight into what to do next. Trust your instincts, and follow your heart. Romance is favored. ☼☼

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll come up with valuable ideas that are worth checking out. The research you do will help you connect with someone who can improve the way you do things. An unexpected change will encourage you to take on a new position. ☼☼☼☼

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): An offer will surface, but before you say yes, double-check the deal's validity. Don't believe everything you hear or let someone barter for you. A sale is good only if it's something you need. Don't spend unnecessarily. ☼☼☼

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take the high road, regardless of what others do. Your heart will not lead you astray. Focus on essential relationships and making use of your

opportunities. Happiness will result if you are honest with yourself and others. Romance will enhance your life. ☼☼☼

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't lose sight of the bottom line, regardless of the unfolding changes. Look for alternative ways to meet your objective and carry on until you reach your destination. Arguing is futile; stick to the script and take care of business. ☼☼☼☼

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A fresh start will brighten your day. Whether you treat yourself to a makeover or improve your living space, it will give you a new lease on life. A conversation with someone will initiate plans and encourage spending more time together. ☼☼☼☼☼

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Simplify your life. Discard or sell what you don't need. The experience you have gained over the years will help you redefine what you want your life to be like moving forward. Satisfy your heart. ☼☼

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Call on someone you enjoy spending time with and discuss your ideas and plans. The feedback you get will help you sort through some of the setbacks you face and help you realize what you can do to make life meaningful. ☼☼☼☼

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful who you share information with or trust with your secrets. Protect your reputation, and put your energy into how you can utilize your skills, knowledge and expertise to bring in more cash. Don't overdo it; avoid over-indulgence. ☼☼☼

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You've got the edge; all you must do is show up and take care of business as usual. A change at home will encourage a healthier lifestyle and improve your relationship with those you live with or near. ☼☼☼



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Say little and do a lot. The less anyone knows about your whereabouts, the better. Dig in, get things done and refuse to let the outside world interfere with your progress. Take charge of your life and make things happen. ☼☼☼



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone you know you can rely on will step up and help you out. An opportunity to put your talent to the test will help bring about positive change regarding how you earn your living. A romantic encounter looks promising. ☼☼☼☼

Birthday Baby: You are kind, wise and resourceful. You are playful and encouraging.

☼: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		8								
	9		1		6			8		
		2					3		9	
	2			4				9		
				3	6	7				
	7				9				5	
9		6					2			
	3			5		4		7		
							4			

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

7/22

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	3	2	9	8	6	1	5	7
1	8	5	7	2	4	6	3	9
9	7	6	3	5	1	2	8	4
7	5	1	4	3	8	9	2	6
2	4	8	6	9	7	5	1	3
3	6	9	5	1	2	7	4	8
6	1	3	8	7	5	4	9	2
5	9	4	2	6	3	8	7	1
8	2	7	1	4	9	3	6	5

Difficulty Level: ★★ ★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

REGISTRIES FOR SHOWERS

Solution: 7 letters

B	F	T	E	V	A	W	O	R	C	I	M	B	S	T
O	B	A	H	S	T	O	R	E	X	I	M	L	H	E
W	S	L	M	G	I	V	E	K	B	R	A	E	O	L
L	T	E	E	I	I	E	C	A	E	M	R	N	W	L
S	E	P	I	W	L	L	B	H	P	M	A	D	E	I
S	K	A	D	A	O	Y	C	S	O	E	Y	E	R	K
T	N	N	C	T	P	T	E	R	M	A	©	N	L	R
E	A	S	H	L	I	T	E	R	M	A	©	N	L	R
E	L	S	D	P	O	T	O	L	O	©	I	E	E	
H	B	R	T	I	E	T	D	N	T	©	M	R	A	R
S	H	E	E	R	S	B	H	B	S	T	I	O	T	T
G	S	I	S	C	I	H	I	R	Y	E	N	E	T	
N	G	B	N	B	I	V	E	R	N	I	O	K	O	A
O	U	E	S	A	V	U	E	S	C	G	D	T	G	M
T	M	I	R	R	O	R	J	T	S	T	S	E	U	G

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7/22

Apron, Baby, Bibs, Blankets, Blender, Bowls, Bride, Clothing, Cloths, Create, Crib, Dishes, Family, Game, Gift, Give, Guests, Iron, Juicer, Kettle, Lamps, Light, Made, Mattress, Microwave, Mirror, Mixer, Money, Monitor, Mugs, Pans, Peeler, Pitcher, Pots, Scale, Shaker, Sheets, Shower, Skillet, Store, Thermometer, Tongs, Towel, Toys, Trivet, Tubs, Vase, Wipes

Yesterday's Answer: Volcano

The NEW Treasury 43 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6430.

Freeman, Braves spoil Darvish's return, beat Padres 2-1



ATLANTA (AP)—Freddie Freeman homered off Yu Darvish in the sixth inning, Touki Toussaint allowed one run and three hits in his season debut, and the Atlanta Braves beat the San Diego Padres 2-1 on Tuesday night.

Toussaint, who missed the first 3½ months rehabbing a right shoulder strain, retired the first seven batters he faced before walking Victor Caratini in the third. He didn't allow a hit until Manny Machado doubled with one out in the fourth.

The Padres tied it 1-all in the fourth when Jake Cronenworth was hit by a pitch, advanced to third on Machado's double and scored on Tommy Pham's sacrifice fly.

Freeman made it 2-1 by taking Darvish deep over the wall in left field with an opposite-field shot, his 22nd homer.

Toussaint (1-0) walked two and struck out five in 6 2/3 innings.

Darvish (7-4) was making his first start since July 8 after a stint on the injured list due to left hip inflammation. He allowed four hits and two runs with two walks and three strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings.

Atlanta, which hasn't been over .500 this year, moved to 46-47. San Diego fell to 55-42.

Dodgers 8, Giants 6

In Los Angeles, pinch-hitter Will Smith connected for a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning, and Los Angeles rallied from five runs down to defeat San Francisco in a game that featured seven home runs.

Chris Taylor and Matt Beaty drew walks from Tyler Rogers (1-1) before Smith hit an 0-1 slider into the stands in left-center for the third walk-off homer of his career.

Taylor had the third multi-homer game of his career. He hit a solo shot in the fifth and a two-run drive in the sixth.

Alex Dickerson and Mike Yastrzemski each hit a two-run homer for San Francisco. LaMonte Wade Jr. and Thairo Estrada added solo shots for the Giants.

Jimmie Sherfy (2-0) got the win.

Nationals 6, Marlins 3

In Washington, Josh Bell hit his 100th career home run and Washington rallied past Miami for its third straight win.

Miami lost its fourth in a row.

After Adam Duvall's three-run homer gave the Marlins a 3-2 lead in the top of the sixth, the Nationals quickly answered in the bottom half.

Tres Barrera doubled and scored the tying run on a two-

out single by pinch-hitter Yadiel Hernandez off Richard Bleier (2-1). After Alcides Escobar was hit by a pitch, Trea Turner and Juan Soto followed with RBI singles off Anthony Bender.

Kyle Finnegan (4-2) pitched one inning and Brad Hand worked a perfect ninth for his 20th save.

Rays 9, Orioles 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Francisco Mejía had a homer and five RBIs, Randy Arozarena also homered and Tampa Bay spoiled John Means' return from a left shoulder strain with a win over Baltimore.

Means (4-3), making his first start since June 5, allowed five runs and seven hits in five innings, striking out two in a 78-pitch outing.

Mejía also had a three-run triple during a four-run eighth as Tampa Bay won for the ninth time in 12 games and moved within a game of AL East-leading Boston.

Baltimore (31-63) had its three-game winning streak halted.

Shane McCann (4-3) gave up one run and four hits over five innings and earned the win.

Yankees 6, Phillies 4

In New York, Aroldis Chapman allowed a run in the ninth inning before recording his first save in over a month, and New York hit four homers to power past Philadelphia.

Brett Gardner hit a go-ahead homer in the fifth inning before Gary Sánchez, Giancarlo Stanton and Estevan Florial also connected in the final three innings for the Yankees.

Chapman gave up a solo homer to Andrew McCutchen and converted his 17th save in 21 opportunities. It was Chapman's first save since June 20. Luis Cessa (3-1) was awarded the win.

Rhys Hoskins homered, Ronald Torreyes hit an RBI double and Jean Segura hit an RBI single for the Phillies, who lost for the fifth time in 15 games.

Aaron Nola (6-6) returned from the COVID-19 list and allowed four runs and seven hits in 5 1/3 innings in his first start since July 6.

Diamondbacks 11, Pirates 6

In Phoenix, Josh Reddick's two-run single broke a tie with two outs in an eight-run seventh inning, and Arizona beat Pittsburgh for its first three-game winning streak since late April.

Josh VanMeter had a triple and a double in the seventh as Arizona sent 13 batters to the plate. There were six hits and four walks in the inning, and



AP
Atlanta Braves first baseman Freddie Freeman (5) hits a solo home run in the sixth inning of a baseball game against the San Diego Padres Tuesday, July 20, 2021, in Atlanta.

Tigers 4, Rangers 1

In Detroit, Robbie Grossman and Eric Haase homered as Detroit extended its winning streak to five games with a rain-delayed win over Texas.

The Rangers have lost seven straight and been outscored 43-3 in five games since the All-Star break.

Tarik Skubal (6-8) got the win, giving up one run and four hits in six innings. He struck out four and did not walk a batter. Three relievers finished for the Tigers. Gregory Soto struck out the side in the ninth for his ninth save.

Dane Dunning (3-7) allowed three runs and four hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Cubs 7, Cardinals 6

In St. Louis, Javier Baez and Ian Happ triggered a six-run rally in the ninth inning and Chicago beat St. Louis.

Chicago snapped a two-game losing streak by rallying against St. Louis closer Alex Reyes, who converted his first 22 saves opportunities this season. Chicago sent 10 batters to the plate in the ninth and capitalized on three walks, an error and a missed third strike.

Baez trimmed the deficit to 6-5 with a two-run single off Reyes, Happ followed with a two-run double to put his team up 7-6.

Nolan Arenado, Jose Rondon and Tommy Edman homered for St. Louis, which had won three in a row.

Craig Kimbrel picked up his 22nd save in 24 opportunities. Dillon Maples (1-0) picked up the win with a scoreless inning.

Reyes (5-4) gave up three runs on two hits.

Mariners 6, Rockies 4

In Denver, Marco Gonzales earned his first win in three months and Dylan Moore homered to lead Seattle past Colorado.

Gonzales (2-5) had not won since beating Baltimore on April 15. He allowed two runs in five innings.

Connor Joe put Colorado ahead 2-0 with his first major league homer, a two-run drive in the fifth.

The Mariners started the sixth inning with four straight hits, the last being Cal Raleigh's two-run double that tied the game. Moore put them ahead with a two-out, two-run homer.

Kendall Graveman worked around a walk in the ninth to pick up his ninth save.

six of the eight runs scored with two outs.

The major league-worst Diamondbacks rallied against Austin Davis (0-1) in the seventh.

J.B. Bukauskas (2-2) won in relief, striking out two in a hitless seventh.

John Nogowski hit his first major league home run and Gregory Polanco also went deep for Pittsburgh, which led 5-1 after 4 1/2 innings.

Reds 4, Mets 3

In Cincinnati, Joey Votto and Aristides Aquino homered on consecutive pitches, Wade Miley worked effectively into the seventh inning and Cincinnati snapped a four-game losing streak with a win over New York.

Jonathan India hit his first leadoff homer, and pinch-hitter Tyler Stephenson delivered a key sacrifice fly in the seventh as the Reds kept New York from its first three-game winning streak since June 14-16 against the Cubs.

Pete Alonso went deep in the first inning for the second consecutive game.

Miley (8-4) finished with a season-high eight strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings. He gave up seven hits, two runs — one earned — and two walks while improving to 4-0 over his last nine starts.

Stephen Nogosek (0-1), called on in the second inning for emergency relief after Robert Stock left while warming up due to a right hamstring injury, allowed three hits and two runs with five strikeouts in a career-high three innings.

Athletics 6, Angels 0

In Oakland, Calif., Matt Olson homered for the second

straight game, James Kaprielian tossed six scoreless innings and Oakland swept a two-game series from Los Angeles.

Kaprielian (5-3) scattered five hits and two walks, striking out seven.

Olson put Oakland on the board with a homer in the fourth inning, and later added an RBI single.

The Athletics scored three runs in the sixth inning on a sacrifice fly by Jed Lowrie and a two-run double from Ramón Laureano. Elvis Andrus and Olson tacked on RBI singles in the seventh.

Los Angeles starter José Suárez retired the first 11 batters he faced before allowing four earned runs in 5 2/3 innings. Suárez (4-3) surrendered three hits and a walk with four strikeouts.

Royals 5, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Ryan O'Hearn and Jorge Soler homered as Kansas City beat Milwaukee in a game that began early to give local fans a chance to watch their team in the NBA Finals.

Mike Minor (7-8) allowed one earned run and five hits in six innings. He struck out five and walked one. Greg Holland got his sixth save.

Hunter Strickland (0-1) took the loss. Avisail Garcia had three hits and Manny Pina added a two-run single for the Brewers.

Astros 9, Indians 3

In Houston, Jose Altuve celebrated the 10th anniversary of his major league debut with a leadoff homer, and made the milestone twice as nice with a second shot on his next at-bat, leading

Houston over Cleveland.

Altuve went 1 for 5 with a single in his debut for the Astros in a 3-2 victory over Washington on July 20, 2011, as a baby-faced 21 year old.

Kyle Tucker added a two-run homer as Houston broke the game open with a six-run fifth inning that made it 8-0, and the Astros sailed to their third straight win.

Luis Garcia (7-5) scattered three hits over six scoreless innings and tied a career high with eight strikeouts for the win.

Triston McKenzie (1-4) took the loss. Amed Rosario hit an RBI double and Cesar Hernandez drove in two runs with a double as the Indians scored three runs in the eighth.

White Sox 9, Twins 5

In Chicago, Jose Abreu doubled and tripled early, then homered to cap a five-run rally in the eighth inning that vaulted Chicago over Minnesota.

Abreu hit his 18th homer, a three-run drive that sent the AL Central-leading White Sox to their fourth win in five games.

Abreu connected off Hansel Robles (3-5) shortly after the Twins seized their first lead in the top half on a two-run homer by Jorge Polanco off reliever Ryan Burr. Minnesota has lost five of six.

Liam Hendriks pitched a scoreless ninth to earn his 24th save in 28 chances and secure the win for Burr (2-0).

Yoan Moncada also homered for Chicago, his third in the last four games after going homerless in his previous 26 games.

Josh Donaldson and Max Kepler also homered for the Twins.

'Stairway to Heaven' set on Aug. 14

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Run Saipan will be changing things up for next month's Underground 5K 21.7, according to coordinator Edward Dela Cruz.

After runners took it easy the past six iterations of the routine 5K courses, the Run Saipan Underground 5K 21.7 on Aug. 14 will literally be an uphill climb and has been rightly named "Stairway to Heaven."

"The next run Saipan 5K is going to be a one-way route from the Last Command Post (restroom area) to the top of Suicide Cliff. We actu-

ally chose all the routes for the year already. If you noticed it's been all flat courses,"

said Dela Cruz, adding that's the reason they will have an incline course in August.

As always, Run Saipan's Underground 5K 21.7 will start bright and early at 6am sunrise with a 5:30am sign-up time.

In related news, Northern Marianas Athletics will again hold an open track and field event starting this Friday, July 23, at the Oleai Sports Complex.

However, instead of the earlier announced 5K, NMA's Track and Field Open Meet will instead have a 3,000m run



MARK RABAGO
From left, Kosuke Sato, a flexing Shuji Kuroda, Marshall Hoskins, and Michiteru Mita in action during Run Saipan Underground 5K 21.6 Mangrove Run last July 10 at the American Memorial Park.

to kick things off on Friday. Check-in time is 5:30pm.

Like last month's competition, July's meet will have nine divisions—18-and-under, open, masters 35-39, masters 40-44, master 45-49, masters 50-54, masters 55-59, master 60-64, masters 65+, and masters 70+. Aside from the aforementioned 3,000m run, other events include the 200m, 800m, 4x100m, javelin, shot-

put, and discus—all held on Saturday, July 24.

NMA also continues to recruit for volunteers for future events, the biggest of which is the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Games that the CNMI will be hosting for the time ever from June 17 to 25 next year.

To become an NMA volunteer, copy and paste on your browser this link <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdu9nFWVxm310I-j2GiVwJAPNqT3rflUyG81Dpn1s-gFV8xL-g/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&fbclid=IwAR0mnUVLj9nCpw mDOS30DS6A9E1NYC3q jqXNWxu2pCwHxkKYcsq-W-bxQs>.

BUCKS'

From Page 20

of the greatest NBA Finals ever with 50 points, 14 rebounds and five blocked shots as the Bucks beat the Phoenix Suns 105-98 on Tuesday night to win an entertaining series 4-2 and cap off a joyous return to a fan-filled postseason after last year's NBA bubble.

It was the third game this series with at least 40 points and 10 rebounds for Antetokounmpo, a dominant debut finals performance that takes its place among some of the game's greatest. Antetokounmpo finished with 35.2 points, 13.2 rebounds and 5.0 assists per game while shooting 61.8, the first player in finals history to reach those numbers.

He shot 16 for 25 from the field and made an unbelievable 17-of-19 free throws — a

spectacular showing for any shooter, let alone one who was hitting just 55.6% in the post-season and was ridiculed for it at times.

"People told me I can't make free throws and I made them tonight. And I'm a freaking champion," Antetokounmpo said.

He hopped around the court waving his arms with 20 seconds remaining to encourage fans to cheer, but there was no need. Their voices had been booming inside and outside for hours by then, having waited 50 years to celebrate a winner after Lew Alcindor — before becoming Kareem Abdul-Jabbar — and Oscar Robertson led the Bucks to their first championship in 1971.

"For the city, I'm sure it means everything," said Khris Middleton, the other player left from that 15-67

team in 2013-14. "They've seen the work that we put in over the years for them to get to this point."

In a season played largely without fans, the Bucks had 65,000 of them packed into the Deer District outside, a wild party that figured to last deep into the Midwestern night. The party wasn't bad inside, either: Confetti rained down inside as fans chanted "Bucks in 6! Bucks in 6!" — a hopeful boast by former player that turned out to be a prophetic rallying cry.

"I hope they enjoyed it just like we are now," Middleton added.

The Bucks became the fifth team to win the NBA Finals after trailing 2-0 and the first to do it by winning the next four games since Miami against Dallas in 2006.

Chris Paul scored 26 points

to end his first NBA Finals appearance in his 16th season. Devin Booker added 19 points but shot just 8 for 22 and missed all seven 3-pointers after scoring 40 points in each of the last two games.

"There's just a pain that goes with your season being over," Suns coach Monty Williams said. "But I've never dealt with this and so I'm grateful, like I said, but I know this is going to hurt for a while."

The teams that came into the NBA together as expansion clubs in 1968 delivered a fine finals, with the last three games all in the balance deep into the fourth quarter.

The Bucks won them largely because of Antetokounmpo, a two-time MVP in the regular season who raised his game even higher in the finals and was voted the unanimous NBA Finals MVP.

He was the star of these finals in every way, from his powerful play on the court to his humble thoughts in interviews to taking time after Tuesday night's win to find children to high-five amid the celebrations. He teared up afterward talking about the sacrifices his family endured while he grew up in Greece.

He did all this after missing the final two games of the Eastern Conference finals with a hyperextended left knee, an injury he feared could be serious enough to end his season.

Just think what people would have missed.

What started as a gradual rise for Antetokounmpo and the Bucks sped up in the last few years and they thought they might be here the last two seasons. They had the NBA's best record in 2018-

19 but blew a 2-0 lead against Toronto in the Eastern Conference finals.

They came back with the best record again last season but never regained their momentum after the season was suspended because of the coronavirus pandemic in March. They were eliminated in the second round by Miami in the bubble.

The Bucks traded for Jrue Holiday before this season and even though they weren't quite as strong in the regular season, they were finally NBA Finals ready.

And Milwaukee was ready for the moment.

Middleton scored 17 points and Bobby Portis came off the bench with 16. Holiday had 12 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds to go along with his usual sturdy defense that helped finally cool off Booker.

SUNS

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With 40 seconds left and the Suns down 8, Paul's desperation 3-pointer clanked off the rim. Any chance at a miracle comeback was done. The championship had slipped away.

"Everybody in that locker room knows we had enough," Paul said. "But it wasn't enough."

Paul made the Finals run with an unlikely cast that included Devin Booker, Deandre Ayton and Mikal Bridges, young players making their first playoff appearances. He was traded to the Suns during the past offseason from the Oklahoma City Thunder, bringing instant star power to a franchise that hadn't been to the playoffs in more than a decade and hadn't made the

Finals since 1993.

The trade paired Paul with Williams, his coach, close friend and mentor. The two had another chance to make it work and the climb to the Finals had Phoenix buzzing.

"We grew all season long," Paul said. "Nobody expected us to be where we are except for us."

It may be a tough ending to the season for Paul, but he

remains one of the game's most relatable players. He's just 6-foot, which gives him an everyman feel that some of the NBA's giants lack. He's got the goofy State Farm commercials. He's had a handful of bad breaks, like when he pulled his hamstring in Game 6 of the Western Conference finals in 2018.

That poor fortune looked like it would continue in the

first round of these players when he suffered a shoulder injury in Game 1 against the Los Angeles Lakers. He was ineffective for the next several games but his teammates carried the load.

In the Western Conference finals, Paul missed the first two games against the Los Angeles Clippers in the league's COVID-19 health and safety protocol. Again, his team-

mates were there for him, rallying to win both games.

He was superb in the game that clinched his first trip to Finals, scoring 41 points in the Game 6 series clincher.

It earned him the opportunity he always craved. It ended in disappointment.

"Right now, you're just trying to figure out what you could have done more," Paul said. "It's tough."

MVP

From Page 20

tonight, this whole series, this whole year," Bucks center Brook Lopez said.

Antetokounmpo initially feared the injury was more serious and would keep him out of action for an entire year. He instead was back on the floor a week later for the start of the NBA Finals.

He collected 20 points and 17 rebounds in a Game 1 loss. He followed that up with at least 41 points and 12 rebounds in each of the next two games.

Then he played major roles in the two signature plays of this series.

First he blocked Deandre Ayton's dunk attempt to prevent Phoenix from tying Game 4 with just over a minute left. And after Jrue Holiday made a steal with the Bucks protecting a one-point lead in the final minute of Game 5, the 6-foot-11 Antetokounmpo raced down the court and was on the receiving end of Holiday's alley-oop that helped clinch the game.

He saved his finest outing for the championship clincher, scoring nearly half the Bucks'

points.

Antetokounmpo collected 20 points in the third quarter alone to help Milwaukee rally from a 47-42 halftime deficit, though the game was still tied 77-all heading into the final period.

He had 27 of the Bucks' 48 total points through the game's middle two quarters. And after making just 55.6% of his free throws in his first 20 games of this postseason, Antetokounmpo went 17 of 19 from the line Tuesday night.

"It's hard to find more words to describe what Giannis does," Bucks coach Mike Budenhol-

zer said. "But the way he made his free throws, the way he did everything, stepped up, the poise, the confidence, the leadership. He has been working on it. We say we want Giannis to get to the free throw line. We believe. We talked about it this past summer. To win a championship, you've got to make free throws and you've got to make shots."

Antetokounmpo's rapid recovery to lead Milwaukee to its first title since 1971 represents the crowning achievement in Antetokounmpo's remarkable rise to NBA stardom.

The 26-year-old Antetok-

ounmpo noted this week he hadn't even started playing basketball in 2007, when LeBron James made his first finals appearance. His rare blend of size and athleticism made him the No. 15 overall pick in the 2013 draft, and he made his first All-Star appearance four years later.

He earned back-to-back MVP honors in 2019 and 2020 while leading the Bucks to the league's best regular-season record each of those years, but they kept falling short in the playoffs. The Bucks blew a 2-0 lead to Toronto in the 2019 East-

ern Conference finals, then lost to Miami in the second round.

Antetokounmpo kept his faith in the Bucks by signing a supermax extension in December.

"There was a job that had to be finished," Antetokounmpo said.

Antetokounmpo also decided to take a different mental approach.

He acknowledged getting too caught up in the emotional swings of each win and loss earlier in his career. He stayed more level-headed this year while also emerging as a more vocal leader.

NMI nips Guam in training match

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The NMI Women's National Team pulled off a 4-3 victory over Guam in a training match last Tuesday at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo.

Kaithlyn Chavez, Guine Borja, and Britany Wally delivered the goals for the NMI WNT, which is in Guam for a four-day training camp. Chavez scored twin goals, including the game-winner five minutes before the seesaw battle ended. The 14-year-old unloaded the go-ahead from the penalty box with the ball going over the head of the Guam goalkeeper.

Chavez's other goals came in the first half, which concluded in a deadlock. She knotted the count in the 39th minute, courtesy off a pass from Jan-nah Casarino. Earlier in the seventh minute, Borja put the CNMI on the board after converting a shot from Wally's as-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players of the NMI Women's National Team pose for a photo before battling Guam in a training match last Tuesday at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo.

sist. Six minutes later, Guam also scored for the first tie in the match and the host team made it back-to-back and grabbed the lead in the 37th minute before Chavez drilled the equalizer for the NMI late in the first half.

In the second half, Guam regained the lead off a corner kick in the 67th minute. However, the NMI WNT stayed focused and forced the third standoff in the match when Wally scored in the 72nd minute off a penalty kick.

With the game tied anew and the clock winding down, both teams became more aggressive in their bid to hit the game-winner. In the end, the NMI delivered with Casarino and Chavez teaming up anew for the dagger. Casarino sent the ball from the left side to Chavez, who kept her compo-

sure and control of the ball on the way to the go-ahead goal in the 88th minute of the match.

After grabbing the lead, the NMI WNT hung tough on defense to preserve the shaky lead and prevail in the closely fought game.

Casarino, Chavez, Borja, and Wally were part of the NMI starting lineup, which also included Toremy Diaz, Dianne Pablo, Julianne Hall, Pia Ngewakl, Khristelle Itas, Gabi Race, and Katrina Costales. Completing the roster are Deseha Mendiola, Mia Abuan, Christina Atalig, Aubrey and Audrey Castro,

Summer Manahane, Rizza Relucio, Tamia and Tyana Hix, Allyssya Angeles, and Stephanie Flores. Luam Khen Koo is the team's coach and is supported by assistant coaches Angie Ito and Irish Pagarao and team manager Emma Lee.

Koo said the successful results in their game against Guam were made possible through the hard work of all the players. He added that the training matches and sessions they are having in Guam are

good exposures to the NMI players.

"This training camp will give them the opportunity to remember and experience the standard of soccer outside the CNMI," Koo said.

After their tough win over Guam, the visiting team took a break from training matches yesterday and just focused on drills and classroom discussions. Tonight, they will play against a women's club before heading back home Friday morning.

Golf to hold Mini Games tryouts

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations will start its tryouts for the golfers that will make up the CNMI National Golf Team for the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games next month.

CFoGA vice president J.J. Atalig said the schedule of the five-round tryouts are Aug. 7 and 21 and Sept. 5, 11, and 18. The federation will be looking at forming a national team made up of two men's players, two junior men's players, two women's players, and two junior women's players.

Tryout fee is \$30 with green fee at \$30 and all five tryouts will be played at the Coral Ocean Resort golf course, which is also the venue for the sport in the Mini Games.

Atalig added that Pacific Games Council eligibility rules dictate that only U.S. citizens who are CNMI residents can try out for the national team. Another eligibility requirement CFoGA included is anyone trying out should also be a member of any CFoGA-sanctioned club.

Atalig earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that ultimately players that will be chosen for the national team will be determined by their "low gross scores, stamina, agility, and ability to perform under

stressful conditions posted after five rounds."

CFoGA's search for a men's and women's coach is still ongoing, according to Atalig.

The federation is inviting eligible golf players to try out for the national team, as proceeds from the 90 holes of golf will help raise funds for the CNMI national golf team.

"The more people show up to tryout the better for the federation," said Atalig.

Aside from Atalig, CFoGA's officers include president Edward Manibusan, secretary/treasurer Lorraine Babauta, social and media officer Gerilyn Dela Cruz, and golf tournament coordinators Marco Peter and

Joey Dela Cruz. Peter incidentally is also the chairman of the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee.

For more information on the tryouts for the CNMI national golf team, call Atalig at 285-1612.

CFoGA meeting today

The umbrella organization of all golf associations in the CNMI will have a meeting at 5pm today at the Northern Marianas Sports Association office at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Representatives of Marianas Golf Association, Refaluwasch Golf Association, Saipan Golf Association, and others local golf clubs are required to attend.



Daisuke Fitial back home

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

One of the pioneers of Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan is back on island and although he didn't take the plunge in last July 10's Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series, Daisuke Fitial is just content in basking in the atmosphere of swimming competition again.

The 21-year-old incoming junior at Linfield University said he's on summer vacation on Saipan and will go back to Oregon in July 28.

"It's great to be back. It's always great to see the younger generation continue the traditional that [Tsunami Saipan] coach Hiro [Kimura] started and it makes me happy to see everyone enjoy the sport of swimming," said Fitial, who is taking up BS Exercise Science in college.

He said he only has fond memories swimming for Kimura and Tsunami Saipan and even won the most improved in kicking award in 2008 during the then-fledgling swimming club's first-year anniversary.



MARK RABAGO

Daisuke Fitial poses with Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura after the Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series last July 10 in the waters off Civic Center Beach.

"I started swimming when I was 5 years old just for safety purposes. And then I actually joined Tsunami Saipan when I was 6 years old until I was 8 years old. Then I moved to the States in 2008 in Oregon and then I'm back now."

Fitial said aside from a short

vacation in 2010, he really hasn't spent a lot of time back home since moving to the U.S. mainland in 13 years ago.

"I miss the people, the camaraderie, and the tradition that coach Hiro started," he added.

For his part, Kimura said Fitial swam with Tsunami

Saipan until he moved to the Oregon when he was 9 years old.

"I and Daisuke have been to Guam Championships in 2008. What I am truly happy about is that he has been swimming in the States. Immigrating and continuing the sport of swimming in the mainland is so hard. The hardships of his parents are immeasurable, and I think Daisuke himself also had a hard time. I am impressed with their efforts," said Kimura.

The usually stoic Tsunami Saipan coach said he's always overwhelmed with emotions whenever he sees one of his swimmers return to Saipan and meet up with him.

"How lucky am I as a swimming coach to have a reunion with one of my swimmers after 13 years," he said.

To somehow makeup for not swimming the last time out, Fitial is expected to take part in this weekend's Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series set this Saturday in the waters off Civic Center Beach.

"Daisuke registered in the 1,500m. I'm so excited to see current Tsunami Saipan swimmers competing with Daisuke!" said Kimura.



Freeman, Braves
spoil Darvish's return,
beat Padres 2-1

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NMI nips Guam in training match

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo had the Larry O'Brien Trophy in one arm, the NBA Finals MVP trophy in the other and there was a cigar on the table in front of him.

All the work it took to lift the Milwaukee Bucks from a team that won 15 games when he was a rookie to one with 16 wins this postseason was finally finished.

"This is time to celebrate," Antetokounmpo said.

Milwaukee waited 50 years for that.

Antetokounmpo ended one **See BUCKS' on Page 18**



AP
The Milwaukee Bucks celebrate with the championship trophy after defeating the Phoenix Suns in Game 6 of basketball's NBA Finals in Milwaukee, Tuesday, July 20, 2021.

BEHIND 50 POINTS FROM GIANNIS

Bucks' 50-year title wait ends

Antetokounmpo caps extraordinary postseason as Finals MVP

By STEVE MEGARGEE
AP SPORTS WRITER

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Three weeks ago, a knee injury left Giannis Antetokounmpo looking 50/50 to return for the rest of the Bucks' playoff run.

Look at him now.

The Greek Freak delivered perhaps the best performance of his career at the best possible moment and can now add an NBA Finals MVP award to his two regular-season MVP trophies. Antetokounmpo scored 50 points in a series-clinching 105-98 Game 6 victory that ended the Bucks' 50-year title drought.

A half century ago, it was Lew Alcindor — before he was Kareem Abdul-Jabbar — earning the MVP honors for the Bucks by averaging 27 points and 18.5 rebounds in a four-game sweep of Baltimore. This time, it was another big man leading



AP
Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) battles against Phoenix Suns forward Jae Crowder during the first half of Game 6 of basketball's NBA Finals in Milwaukee, Tuesday, July 20, 2021.

the way as Antetokounmpo became the first player to average 35.2 points, 13.2 rebounds and 5.0 assists per game while shooting 61.8%.

He followed that up by saying how his improbable rise to stardom should serve as an inspiration to others.

"Believe in your dreams," Antetokounmpo said. "Whatever you feel, when you feel down, when things don't look like it's going to happen for you or you might not make it in your career — it might be basketball, it might be anything. Just believe in what you're doing and keep working. Don't let nobody

tell you who you can't be or what you can't do."

Antetokounmpo was an easy choice for the MVP honor after also adding 14 rebounds and five blocks in Game 6. He had at least 40 points and 10 rebounds in three of the six games in this series.

He did all that while dealing with a hyperextended left knee that prevented him from playing in the last two games of the Eastern Conference finals against the Atlanta Hawks.

"It's just completely awe-inspiring, his performance

See MVP on Page 18

For Suns, Paul's feel-good Finals story ends in frustration

By DAVID BRANDT
AP SPORTS WRITER

As the final buzzer sounded, a stone-faced Chris Paul slowly walked off the court, down the tunnel and into the locker room.

His feel-good story with the Phoenix Suns was denied the happy ending he craved.

"Great group of guys, hell of a season," Paul said. "But this one's gonna hurt for a while."

One of the NBA's most accomplished players finally got to the sport's biggest stage in his 16th season at 36 years old. He's an 11-time All-Star, 10-time All-NBA selection, nine-time All-Defensive selection and often referred to as the 'Point God' for his near-perfect profile as an elite point guard.

But he still lacks a championship.

Led by Giannis Antetokounmpo's amazing performance with 50 points, 14 rebounds and five blocks, the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Suns 105-98 on Tuesday night to win the NBA Finals in six games.

The Suns won the first two games of the series only to lose four straight. It was a bru-

tal collapse for a team led by Paul, who is regarded as one of the best leaders and point guards in NBA history.

Even though the pain of losing was fresh, coach Monty Williams said he hasn't forgotten what the point guard's presence meant to a franchise that had been among the NBA's worst for the past several seasons.

"I just think it speaks to his greatness," Williams said. "He's a generational player. I said that 11 years ago when I coached

him in New Orleans. Everywhere he's gone, the team has won. They've improved."

Paul's performance against the Bucks ran the gamut: He was the hero in a Game 1 win with 32 points, then he was the goat in a Game 4 loss with five turnovers, including a particularly costly one in the final minute. In the decisive Game 6, he led the team with 26 points and added five assists.

It wasn't enough.

See SUNS on Page 18



AP
Phoenix Suns guard Chris Paul tries to pass around Milwaukee Bucks forward Khris Middleton during the first half of Game 6 of basketball's NBA Finals in Milwaukee, Tuesday, July 20, 2021.